FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-140
Tuesday
21 July 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-140 CONTENTS *21 July 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Bush Rejection of Nuclear Test Proposal Noted *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Jul]* 2
U.S. 'Failed' To Meet Challenge *[Moscow International]* 2
Review of Missile Defense Pact Seen as Premature *[Moscow International]* 2
Comment on Joint Destruction of Nuclear Weapons *[Moscow International]* 3

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Byelarusian Government Delegation Begins Visit 4
Agreements Ready for Signing *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Gaydar Opens Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
30 Bilateral Agreements Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Joint Communique Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
'Single Economic Space' Noted *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Kozyrev Arrives in Manila for ASEAN Forum *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Meets Philippine Foreign Minister *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Delivers Yeltsin Letter to Ramos *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Pavel Grachev Arrives in London for Visit *[Moscow TV]* 6
Holds Talks With Rifkind *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Delegation From Komi Republic in UK on Visit *[Russian TV]* 7
North, South Ossetian Leaders Hold Talks *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Missiles Fall Near Embassy in Afghanistan *[INTERFAX]* 7
Belgrade Diplomats on Sanctions Against FRY *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 7
Parliamentarian on Plan To Return Kurils *[INTERFAX]* 8
Fishing Committee Denies Concession on Kurils *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 Jul]* 8
Shumeyko, Khizha Attend Japanese Economic Forum *[Tokyo KYODO]* 9
Japanese Travel Restrictions To Be Lifted *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Commentary on Problems of Foreign Credits *[Moscow TV]* 9

Federation Affairs

Political Issues

Signing of Borders Decree To Be Postponed *[Moscow Radio]* 10
Stankevich on Kozyrev Dismissal Rumors *[INTERFAX]* 10
Internal Affairs Ministry Issues Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Sheynis Comments on Needed Government Actions *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 Jul]* 11
Congress of Minor Russian Cities Concludes *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Consolidation Party News Conference on Aims *[Moscow TV]* 12
'Civil Union' Critical of 'RF-Politica' *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Forum Held on Anti-Semitism, Fascism *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Ministry Denies Deputies KGB Informers *[INTERFAX]* 13

Agricultural Issues

Weather Damage, Harvest Campaign Problems *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 21 Jul]* 13
Threshed Grain Passes 3 Million Tonne Mark *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 17 Jul]* 15

Rutskoy Comments on 'Sluggish Pace' of Reforms *[Russian TV]* 15
Minister on Harvest Situation, Problems 16
Uses of IMF Loan *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Jul]* 16
Situation 'Not Disastrous' *[PRAVDA 16 Jul]* 16
Promises Farmers Support *[Moscow Radio]* 16
Grain Price Demands Excessive *[Moscow Radio]* 16
Interviewed on Reforms *[Russian TV]* 17
Promotes Cooperative Principles *[Moscow Radio]* 17
State Farms Demand Doubling of Grain Prices *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Union Says Farmers Plan 5 Aug Solidarity Day *[Moscow International]* 18

Supreme Soviet

General Issues

Khasbulatov on Politics, Parliament's Work *[Russian TV]* 18
Decree on Privatization Checks Issued *[Moscow TV]* 25

Media Issues

IZVESTIYA Alleges Vote 'Crudely Rigged' *[21 Jul]* 25
IZVESTIYA Editor on Supreme Soviet Move *[Radio Rossii]* 26
IZVESTIYA Deplores Supreme Soviet Vote *[21 Jul]* 26
Legality of IZVESTIYA Resolution Questioned *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Jul]* 27
ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Gives Statement *[21 Jul]* 28
PRAVDA Decries Poor Access to Information *[16 Jul]* 30
Journalists Union Condemns Media Decision *[ITAR-TASS]* 31

Regional Affairs

Chechen Foreign Minister Tenders Resignation *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Sakhalin Officials Warn of Social Tension *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Kaliningrad Troops No 'Threat' to Neighbors *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Krasnodar Asks for State Border With Georgia *[Radio Rossii]* 31
Khasbulatov Visits 'Chernobyl-Affected' Village *[Russian TV]* 32
Ministry Plans Yuzhno-Uralsk Nuclear Plant *[POSTFACTUM]* 32
Kuban Farmers Fix Price for Sale of Wheat *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Bread Prices Continue To Rise in Kuzbass *[Moscow Radio]* 32
City Enterprise Debts Increase in St Petersburg *[Russian TV]* 33

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Security Services Agreement Signed With Russia *[UKRINFORM]* 34
Foreign Minister on Relations With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Morozov, Grachev Hold Talks in Bolgrad *[Kiev International]* 35
Reconnaissance Party Departs for Yugoslavia *[UKRINFORM]* 35
Chernobyl Evacuees To Return to Ukraine *[ITAR-TASS]* 35

National Affairs

Border Guards on Alert as Clashes Continue *[Kiev International]* 35
Kasatonov 'Threatens' on Black Sea Fleet Issue *[Kiev International]* 35
Naval Personnel Swear Allegiance to Ukraine *[UKRINFORM]* 36
Servicemen Dismissed *[Kiev Radio]* 36
Sevastopol Guard Command 'Ready for Actions' *[POSTFACTUM]* 36
Formation of Naval Headquarters Proposed *[Kiev International]* 36
EC to Finance Officer Training Program *[Kiev TV]* 36
Plans for Return of Servicemen From CIS Noted *[Kiev International]* 37
'Insufficient' Grain Harvest Expected *[INTERFAX]* 37
Economic Freedom Party Begins Formation *[Kiev International]* 37
Rukh Support For Democratic Forces Noted *[Kiev TV]* 37

Crimean Peoples' Congress Attendance Low *[UKRINFORM]* 38
Problems With Crimean Tatars' Return Aired *[UKRINFORM]* 38
Greeks, Crimean Tatars in Dispute Over Land *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Jul]* 39

WESTERN REGION

Byelarus

Defense Ministry Selling Equipment, Property *[INTERFAX]* 40
French Experts Plan To Help Destroy Ammunition *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Prime Minister on Market Economy, Western Ties *[Paris LE MONDE 21 Jul]* 40

Moldova

New Defense, Security Ministers Appointed *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Dniester Leader Rejects Cabinet Posts Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 41
Official Says Government Violating Cease-Fire *[Moscow Radio]* 41
'Attackers' Kill Bendery Military Commander *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
EC To Initiate Aid Program for Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
'Brain Drain' Continues as Scientists Leave *[ITAR-TASS]* 42

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Deputy Prime Minister Relieved of Post *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 43
Uralsk Oblast Expecting Good Harvest *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 43
Cossacks Deny Involvement in Dniester Conflict *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 43
Tough Measures Called For To Combat Crime *[INTERFAX]* 43
Oblast Delegations Meet on Economic Cooperation *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 43
'Revival of Leninist' Structures Group Statement *[IZVESTIYA 16 Jul]* 43

Krygyzstan

Further on Talks With Turkish Foreign Minister *[Ankara Radio]* 44
Further on Talks With Council of Europe *[Ankara TV]* 44
Akayev Streses Ties With Both East, West *[INTERFAX]* 44
National Guard Takes Oath of Allegiance *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

Tajikistan

Foreign Relations Ministry To Be Reorganized *[ITAR-TASS]* 45
Further on Visit by Romania's Nastase *[ROMPRES]* 45
Electric Plant Guarded Against Armed Attacks *[Moscow TV]* 45
Muslims Protest Over Uzbek TV Program *[Dushanbe Radio]* 46

Turkmenistan

Government Bans Various Import, Export Items *[INTERFAX]* 46
Press Secretary Appointed, Service To Expand *[INTERFAX]* 46

Uzbekistan

National Guard Forces Take Oath to Republic *[Moscow TV]* 47
Council of Europe Officials Comment on Talks *[Moscow TV]* 47

CAUCASUS

Armenia

'Self-Defense Forces' Said To Liberate Aterk *[Yerevan Radio]* 48
EC To Allocate $52 Million for Grain Purchases *[INTERFAX]* 48

Azerbaijan

Baku Radio Reports Armenian Recapture of Aterk 48
'Aerial' Bombs Dropped on Stepanakert *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Supreme Soviet Chairman Meets Russian Envoy *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Official Urges Continued CIS Observer Status *[INTERFAX]* 49
Foreign Minister on Peace Conference, Armenia *[Ankara TV]* 49
Turkish Delegation Issues Statement on Ties *[Ankara Radio]* 50
New Crossing Point Opened on Turkish Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
President Appoints New Communications Minister *[Baku Radio]* 50

Georgia

Curfew Introduced in Tskhinvali on 19 Jul *[Moscow Radio]* 50
Removal of Some Russian Volunteers Demanded *[Moscow TV]* 50
Emergency Situation Declared in Tskhinvali *[INTERFAX]* 50
Commission Formed To Aid South Ossetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
S. Ossetia Leader Thanks Russian Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Kulumbegov Message to Residents of S. Ossetia *[Moscow International]* 51
North Ossetian on Deciding South's Status *[Moscow Radio]* 51
Russian Forces Withdrawing Weapons, Equipment *[INTERFAX]* 51
Diplomatic Relations Established With Armenia *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Not Intending To Introduce Visas for Russians *[Radio Rossii]* 52
Police Officers Reinforce Western Areas *[INTERFAX]* 52
Ioseliani Advocates Annihilating 'Marauders' *[Russian TV]* 52

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Vahi Criticizes Attacks on Russians *[Radio Rossii]* 53
Further on Russian Supreme Soviet Resolution *[BALTFAX]* 53
Hard Currency Reserves Higher Than Predicted *[Tallinn Radio]* 53
Government To Control Defense Forces *[BALTFAX]* 53
Ruutel Departs for 21-26 July Visit to Spain *[BALTFAX]* 53

Latvia

Rublis Introduced; Dollar Exchange Rate Increases *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Some Traders Continue To Accept Russian Rubles *[Riga Radio]* 54
Russian Army To Pay Hard Currency for Land Use *[Radio Rossii]* 54
NATO Experts Visit, Praise Defense Concept *[Riga Radio]* 54

Lithuania

Landsbergis Comments on Government's Dismissal *[Vilnius Radio]* 54
Comments on Need for New Government *[Vilnius Radio]* 56
New Prime Minister Nominated *[BALTFAX]* 56
Background of Gediminas Vagnorius Resignation *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 16 Jul]* 56
Further on Resignation *[BALTFAX]* 57
Worker's Union Backs Vagnorius *[Vilnius Radio]* 57
Accounting Procedures Talks With Russia Noted *[BALTFAX]* 57
Council Discusses Granting Credit to Russia *[Vilnius Radio]* 57
Government Adopts Regulations on Border *[Vilnius International]* 58
Government Defines 1992 State Budget *[Vilnius International]* 58
Situation in Power Engineering System Noted *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Problems Noted in Energy Production, Costs *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Effects of Drought on Currency Predicted *[BALTFAX]* 59
Radio Station Founders Said To Be KGB Agents *[Vilnius Radio]* 59

Russia, Ukraine Sign Security Agreement

UKRINFORM reports that "Yevgeniy Marchuk, head of the Ukrainian National Security Service, and Viktor Barannikov, the Russian minister of security, signed an agreement here [in Kiev] today on cooperation and interaction between the security bodies of both states. It confirms the adherence of the Russian and Ukrainian special services to the principles of international security, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and state independence of Russia and Ukraine." It was noted that "long-term cooperation between the Russian Ministry of Security and the Ukrainian Security Service envisages the exchange of information on any subversive aspirations which are uncovered on the part of foreign organizations and special services against Russia and Ukraine, cooperation in preventing and stopping smuggling and the illegal export of valuables, cooperation in the campaign against interstate and interregional organized crime, all forms of terrorism, the illegal circulation of drugs and mind-affecting substances, and cooperation in seeking and detaining individuals who have committed or who are suspected of having committed crimes, the investigation of which lies within their competence." "The bilateral agreements rule out the use against each other by the special services not only of their own forces and resources, but also the capacities of third countries. According to the mutual agreement between the sides, cooperation may also develop in other areas of their activity."

Ukrainian Border Guards on Alert Over Bendery

Kiev International radio reports that the "press department of the Frontier Guards of Ukraine, stated that although the disuniting of troops continued during the weekend in Dniester it was rather slow. The warring sides are accusing one another of violating the agreements reached." It was further reported that as a result of the continuation of armed clashes in Bendery and Dubossary, "the Ukrainian frontier guards have been put on the alert."

Russian, Byelarusian Delegations Hold Talks

A Byelarusian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich is in Moscow to meet with their Russian counterparts. Acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said: "Today we have set the ground for close, very close relations between Russia and Byelarus," reports ITAR-TASS, adding: "The signing of some 30 bilateral agreements capped a meeting" between the delegations. In another report, ITAR-TASS states: "Russia and Byelarus will continue to expand their economic cooperation and promote free-market relations on their territories, according to a joint communique, signed by their government delegations in Moscow on Monday." The report adds that Gaydar said the documents signed "could be viewed as a step" toward "a confederation within the CIS."

IZVESTIYA Controversy Continues

The Supreme Soviet vote subordinating IZVESTIYA to parliament was "crudely rigged," the paper charged, claiming that the votes of several deputies were cast fraudulently. The paper continued its editorials against the decision, while its chief editor told Radio Rossii that Press Minister Poltoranin said he has no intention of altering the paper's registration.

Bush Rejection of Nuclear Test Proposal Noted

PM2007110192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report under the "Disarmament" general heading: "Nuclear Explosions Give Confidence to Washington"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has rejected a proposal to limit significantly the number of U.S. underground nuclear tests and adopted a decision to adhere to current practice regarding such tests.

THE WASHINGTON POST reported this, citing the text of a letter it received from high-ranking representatives of the administration explaining Bush's decision, which was submitted to Congress 10 July.

"The administration continues to believe that the nuclear test program, which is insignificant in terms of scale, is necessary to preserve confidence in our greatly reduced nuclear deterrence forces," the letter states.

The letter describes the U.S. President's decision as a shift in U.S. policy, as nuclear tests will now only be conducted to verify the reliability and safety of existing nuclear weapons, and not for the creation of new ones. The newspaper points out, however, that back in January U.S. officials declared that there are no plans to create new nuclear weapons. "Under the circumstances which can be foreseen at present," the letter says, "we do not anticipate conducting more than six tests a year over the next five years or more than three tests of a capacity greater than 35 kilotonnes."

U.S. 'Failed' To Meet Challenge

LD1807183792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] The White House is reported to have dismissed the idea of reducing the number of nuclear testings which will be kept up at a level of six blasts a year. Comment is by Vladislav Kozyakov and this is what he writes:

This follows Mr. Bush's decision now published in a letter to the Senate by the Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, the Energy Secretary James Watkins, and the Presidential aide Brent Scowcroft. To stave off criticism, they have given reassurances that the nuclear explosions will be carried out only to test the safety and reliability of nuclear warheads, but not to develop new weapons. They also held out promises of cutting the number of U.S. nuclear tests in the future.

Arguments of this kind can hardly be a convincing response to widespread demands for an immediate nuclear test ban. Mr. Bush's decision happens to coincide with a call on the American president by leaders of the antinuclear campaign, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear Wars, to abandon further tests.

The leaders of the movement uniting physicians from 80 countries do not believe that further tests now that the cold war is over makes any sense. They say the safety of the existing nuclear stockpiles can be ensured without recourse to nuclear explosions—a view that is shared by experts in other countries.

The administration's decision to go ahead with tests as before appears to be out of line even with its proclaimed policy of nuclear cutbacks, together with Russia, and effective international measures for nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Each new explosion in the Nevada desert can evoke nothing but doubts in Washington's commitment to those goals.

There was a unique opportunity for the suspension of nuclear testings as an initial step before a comprehensive ban now that both Russia and France want to maintain a test moratorium until the end of this year.

Canada and Norway have both said they are supportive of moves by Moscow and Paris. Elsewhere calls can be heard to follow the two countries' suit.

The House of Representatives in a change of heart in June passed a bill calling for a 12-month suspension of nuclear tests, and more than half in the Senate put forward a similar bill to be debated soon. Significantly the Democratic candidate for presidency, Bill Clinton, is in favor of a comprehensive test ban, while former President Jimmy Carter in a speech to the Democrats' national convention regretted to say that his country remained the only stumbling block on the way to such a ban.

The issue of nuclear explosions is becoming a serious trial test for the White House, a challenge which it has so far failed to meet.

Review of Missile Defense Pact Seen as Premature

LD2007200892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] Russia and the United States keep discussing problems of cooperating in setting up antimissile defenses. A comment from our news analyst, Vladislav Kozyakov.

First, a reminder that the idea of pooling efforts of the two countries in this area was advanced in Moscow. The two presidents discussed it last January and June. Now, under the accord they have reached, Russia and the United States will be allies, must work out a concept of global defense system to deal with ballistic missiles. A joint statement signed in Washington last month noted that such cooperation will be a tangible expression of the new relations existing between Russia and the United

States and will draw them into a major undertaking together with other countries of the world community.

At that time Boris Yeltsin and George Bush decided to set up a high-level group to examine practical steps, for example information exchanges on early warning by creating a center of early warning about rocket launches, or cooperation of states in developing means and technologies for antimissile defense and a possible conclusion of new treaties or making amendments in the already available agreements.

According to reports in the U.S. press, the discussions outlined issues in Moscow, a delegation is to arrive here from the United States featuring high-ranking officials of the State Department, the Pentagon, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the National Security Council. [sentence as heard] This gives one hope that the exchanges of view will bring about advancement, despite the fact that the problems discussed are very complex. But one must also mention the fact that some comments over these talks appearing in the U.S. press make one stop and think, for too great an emphasis is laid in them on the fact that the United States is interested above all in a review of the missile defense treaty banning tests and development of antimissile systems in outer space. For example, THE NEW YORK TIMES said last week that was the main goal of the United States.

But the missile defense treaty has been and still is a quite important factor in maintaining stability in the world. It's possible that in the future, when the world community will be able to set up a global system for antimissile defense, or when it will be already deploying this system, some points in this treaty will have to be changed. But it would be hardly justifiable at present to ruin the missile defense treaty. In fact, in the United States too, close importance is given to observing this treaty. For example, during the debates on the work under the SDI program, Congress several times gave its consent for earmarking funds for some particular experiments, provided these would not upset the treaty. That is a display of concern about maintaining stability at a time when Russia and the United States are reducing their nuclear armaments.

As a matter of fact, the accord reached at the Washington summit leaves no doubt that there is understanding on this score. The joint Russo-American statement on the global defense system speaks of a need to start developing the legal basis for cooperation. It can incorporate new treaties, agreements on other possible amendments to existing treaties and amendments. [sentence as heard] And all these are essential for nothing else but realizing the global antimissile system. So it's too early to speak of a review of the antimissile defense treaty now as the main task. This is something like putting the cart ahead of the horse.

Comment on Joint Destruction of Nuclear Weapons

LD1907152192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Commentary by military observer Valeriy Chebotaryev; Chebotaryev speaks in Russian fading into English translation]

[Text] The forthcoming large-scale reduction of the former Soviet nuclear weapons is in the focus of attention both within the Commonwealth of Independent States and outside its borders. Military observer Valeriy Chebotaryev presents the following commentary:

[Chebotaryev] Cutbacks in nuclear armaments stipulate the stopping of their production and subsequent liquidation, which faces a number of complicated financial, organizing and scientific and technical problems, since it is the question of dismantling nuclear charges, processing radioactive materials and ensuring the safety of their transportation and storage. Under the existing agreement (?in) the framework of the CIS all former Soviet republics having nuclear weapons on their territory must hand them over to Russia to be destroyed. Only Russia has the potential needed to carry out this task. Still, it won't be enough for a speedy liquidation of weapons given the present difficult economic and financial situation in Russia.

This is clearly understood by Western countries offering help to Moscow. The issue of international assistance in the dismantling of the former Soviet nuclear arsenals is moving from discussions to a practical stage. For one, the United States agreed to give Russia $150 million worth of aid. The means will be used to set up an international scientific and technical center in Russia, to supply protective cover for storage facilities, containers for the transportation of nuclear materials, and special protective clothes.

Britain and France have also voiced their intention to cooperate with Russia in this domain. Even Japan, the first and the only country which came under nuclear bombardment, does not keep aloof. In February it announced readiness to make its own financial contribution to the destruction of nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union.

Quite evidently nuclear disarmament responds to the interests of all nations. That's why the broader international efforts to eliminate the nuclear threat, the faster and more successfully this task will be resolved.

International Affairs

Byelarusian Government Delegation Begins Visit

Agreements Ready for Signing

LD2007144292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Nine documents are ready for signing between Russia and Byelarus at a meeting of governmental delegations of the two countries on Monday [20 July], according to Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar.

They include an agreement on the terms of shipments of goods, raw materials and food in between enterprises and organisations, on prices for goods traded in between the two states, on taxes, on joint industrial development, creation of joint ventures and joint-stock enterprises, on joint work in eliminating Chernobyl aftermath, on cooperation in transport and communications, on basic principles of oil and gas transportation, on mutual shipments of fuel and energy resources in 1992, on military cooperation.

The sides are also expected to discuss monetary policy as both states are determined to remain in the rouble zone, on paying the internal and foreign debts and the use of the property of the former USSR.

The documents are to be signed by Gaydar and Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

Opening the meeting Gaydar stressed that a high level of cooperation exists between the two countries in implementing economic reforms and strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States and said the talks can be called "a joint meeting of the governments of two countries".

Gaydar Opens Meeting

LD2007151392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1315 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—A meeting has started at Moscow's "President Hotel" between Russian and Byelarusian Government delegations, headed by cabinet leaders Yegor Gaydar and Vyacheslav Kebich. In the course of the three-hour talks, it is intended to discuss a number of issues concerning military, political, and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Opening the meeting, Yegor Gaydar stressed the existing high level of cooperation between Russia and Byelarus in the implementation of economic reforms and the shaping of the Commonwealth of Independent States. He said that "today one can speak not just of a meeting, but of a joint session of the governments of the two countries."

It is expected that a ceremony at which Yegor Gaydar and Vyacheslav Kebich are to sign bilateral documents will begin at around 1800.

30 Bilateral Agreements Signed

LD2007173192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1658 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The signing of some 30 bilateral agreements capped a meeting between Government delegations from Russia and Byelarus in Moscow on Monday [20 July].

"Today we have set the ground for close, very close relations between Russia and Byelarus," acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar told reporters after the meeting.

Gaydar and his Byelarusian counterpart Vyacheslav Kebich signed about a dozen agreements on military, political and economic issues. The rest were initialed by deputy prime ministers and ministers.

The documents include agreements on delivery terms for enterprises in Russia and Byelarus, prices, tax policies and cooperation in the military sphere.

Joint Communique Signed

LD2007163592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Russia and Byelarus will continue to expand their economic cooperation and promote free-market relations on their territories, according to a joint communique, signed by their government delegations in Moscow on Monday [20 July].

The sides have agreed to pursue joint monetary policies in the rouble zone and coordinate their actions on the foreign economic front. Russia and Byelarus also agreed to coordinate their reforms with the International Monetary Fund in order to maintain economic ties between the two republics.

They agreed to continue using the rouble on their territories and pursue a coordinated budgetary, tax, price and credit policies.

Russian and Byelarusian officials also called for more talks on ways to service former Soviet debts. The two republics agreed to cooperate in combating crime.

Government officials praised the importance of a military cooperation agreement and associated agreements on strategic forces temporarily stationed in Byelarus, signed at the meeting.

Russian and Byelarus officials on Monday signed 21 bilateral documents, paving the way for close cooperation.

"Today we have laid the foundation for close economic, political, defence, and cultural ties between our independent states... I have no doubts that these agreements will 'work', since they envisage a high integration between our countries and in a sense restore the single social and political space where our nations lived," Russia's acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar told reporters commenting on the results of the talks. Many of the signed documents "by far transcend agreements within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States", including the agreement to coordinate defence activities, on the stationing of Russian strategic forces in Byelarus, and the transport cooperation agreement, Gaydar said.

Asked if the documents paved the way for a "confederation" within the CIS, Gaydar said that they could be viewed as "a step in this direction." Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich agreed. Asked if Ukraine would join the bilateral agreements, Kebich said he did not want to engage in forecasts. "This is Ukraine's business," he said.

Russia could sign an equally comprehensive package of documents with "some CIS countries interested in such a close and efficient cooperation mechanism, including close cooperation in the defence sphere," Gaydar said.

'Single Economic Space' Noted

LD2007231492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1805 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jul—The Russian Federation and the Republic of Byelarus have demonstrated their mutual interest in preserving a single economic space, increasing the integration of the economy, further developing economic links on the basis of mutual benefit, and creating favorable conditions for the development of market relations in both states. This is said in a joint communique on a meeting of government delegations from the two countries signed here today.

The sides, inter alia, have achieved agreement on the necessity of correcting the tactics and timescales for transformations jointly with the IMF so as to preserve and develop economic links between Russia and Byelarus. They decided to aid the improvement of integrational processes within the framework of the common economic space and extend the rights and powers of economic entities. The sides agreed to use a single unit of currency—the ruble—and they have decided to conduct an agreed budget, tax, and finance-credit policy, and also policy in the sphere of price formation. They adopted the same conditions for the two states' economic entities for deliveries of products and goods and stated the intention to conduct an agreed import-export policy.

The meeting's participants stressed the necessity of activating bilateral talks with the aim of developing decisions connected to servicing and paying off the former USSR's foreign debt. Russia and Byelarus agreed to implement cooperation in the fight against crime and cooperate in the sphere of state security. The government delegations noted the important significance of the treaty in the military sphere signed during the meeting and of the supplementary agreements on strategic forces temporarily stationed on the territory of the Republic of Byelarus.

Kozyrev Arrives in Manila for ASEAN Forum

LD2007110292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0858 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Manila, 20 Jul—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived today in the Philippines capital of Manila. On the invitation of the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), uniting Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines, he will take part in the work of the 25th annual conference of foreign ministers and will hold a dialogue with his colleagues on questions of expanding political contacts and economic cooperation between ASEAN and Russia.

This is the first time in the history of Russian relations with this influential regional association that a Russian minister has received such an invitation from ASEAN. A. Kozyrev will also hold talks with Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus on Russo-Philippine relations and will sign an agreement on setting up air communication between the two countries. It is expected that the Russian minister will be received by Fidel Ramos, the republic's president.

Talks will be held between A. Kozyrev and PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who has also received an invitation to the Manila meeting, and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. A meeting is planned between A. Kozyrev and Roberto Romulo, who will take over the post of Philippine foreign minister from R. Manglapus, who is retiring August.

In response to journalist's questions on his arrival, A. Kozyrev expressed gratitude for the invitation of his ASEAN colleagues and expressed Russia's profound commitment to establishing a comprehensive dialogue with ASEAN. We have something to say, something to discuss, and something to resolve with this association, he underscored.

Meets Philippine Foreign Minister

LD2007191992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian diplomatic department, is already far away in Manila, capital of the Philippines. He is to take part in the meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—ASEAN—which opens on 21 July.

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhonko] [passage omitted] Answering journalists' questions on arrival, Andrey Kozyrev expressed gratitude for the invitation from his ASEAN colleagues and spoke about our country's profound commitment to establishing the broadest possible dialogue with ASEAN.

On the same day, a ceremony was held to sign an intergovernmental agreement on air traffic between Russia and the Philippines. The document, signed by the leaders of the foreign policy departments of the two countries, Andrey Kozyrev and Raul Manglapus, sets out the conditions and mechanisms for organizing transit flights and direct routes between Moscow and Manila. This is the first such document concluded in the entire history of the two states.

Talks also took place today between Andrey Kozyrev and Raul Manglapus. They discussed a range of issues concerning bilateral Russo-Philippine relations and also exchanged opinions on topical problems on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. Russia attaches great significance to the development of friendly and mutually advantageous relations with the Philippines and considers that the current visit by the Russian minister of foreign affairs represents a good opportunity to extend and diversify the existing links. As the state which is the legal successor of the former Soviet Union, Russia confirms its adherence to existing treaties and agreements with the Philippines.

The Russian side is currently working on a number of new agreements, such as an accord on abolishing dual taxation and agreements on investments and on cooperation in agriculture, culture, and sport. Russia favors the development of political consultations between the two countries and the development of interparliamentary contacts and cooperation in the military sphere.

Delivers Yeltsin Letter to Ramos

LD2107105992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 21 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Bokhonko and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Manila July 21 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with Philippine President Fidel Ramos on Tuesday [21 July] to give him a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which called for bringing relations between the two states to summit level.

Kozyrev and Ramos discussed a wide range of issues, including urgent international and regional problems.

Kozyrev praised the Philippines' efforts to promote peace, stability and social and economic progress in South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Kozyrev is attending a Conference of Asean Foreign Ministers in Manila. This is the first trip to the Philippines by the foreign minister of a new Russia.

Pavel Grachev Arrives in London for Visit

LD2007183292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Report from London by correspondent V. Shishkovskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has left for Great Britain, where he is to meet his British colleagues and visit military units.

[Shishkovskiy] Straight from Heathrow Airport, Army General Grachev headed for the British Defense Ministry where he was warmly welcomed by the head of the country's military department Malcolm Rifkind. The commander of the guard of honor presented a report in Russian to the high guest from Moscow. Accompanied by his British colleague, Army General Grachev inspected the guards.

The first official visit to Great Britain by the Russian defense minister has evoked great interest in London and is assessed here as an important step on the way of expanding cooperation in various spheres and strengthening trust between the two countries. This was also noted in the course of the first conversations and talks held today in the British Ministry of Defense by Army General Grachev and Malcolm Rifkind. [Video shows Grachev being met by Rifkind, guard of honor.]

Holds Talks With Rifkind

LD2007200492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London, 20 July—Negotiations have taken place here between British Defense Minister Malcolm Rifkind and Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, who arrived in London today on an official visit.

P.S. Grachev also met Sir Richard Vincent, chief of the British Defense Staff, as well as the chairman of the Defence Committee of the House of Commons Sir Nicholas Bonsor.

As the ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed in the British Ministry of Defense, a wide range of problems was discussed in the course of meetings and talks, including the reorganization of the armed forces of both

countries and the development of bilateral military contacts. An exchange of opinions took place on employment and retraining of servicemen transferred to the reserve.

Delegation From Komi Republic in UK on Visit

LD2107103392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] There is growing interest in Great Britain in broadening trade and economic cooperation with various Russian regions. The results of a visit to London by a delegation from the Komi Republic's government confirm this. The delegation held talks with a number of leading English companies and banks that have a rich experience in financing and insuring all kinds of projects.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Our experience in the republic shows that so far few serious investors are coming to the republic. We investigated the reasons for this. Of course, on the whole this is because the republic is not well-known; there are no clear, firm political guarantees; there are no firm economic guarantees. [end recording]

North, South Ossetian Leaders Hold Talks

LD2007175892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting was held today in the North Ossetia Supreme Soviet between Galazov, head of the republic's parliament, and Khitagurov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and leaders of South Ossetia, representatives of the public, journalists, and leaders of the republic's creative unions.

Questions connected with the situation in the region were discussed.

Missiles Fall Near Embassy in Afghanistan

OW2007132592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent I. Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] So far there is no direct threat to the lives of CIS citizens in Kabul where tensions sharply aggravated of late, said a prominent member of Russia's Foreign Ministry.

Combat operations involving the various Afghan factions are taking place in the vicinity of the Russian Embassy in Kabul. According to latest reports, the warring sides are using armoured vehicles and rocket installations. Two missiles fell on the compound of Russia's Embassy. 19 missiles exploded near it. Fortunately, none of the 160 CIS citizens who are in Kabul now has been hurt. But the clashes continue.

The situation has been complicated by the fact that the Islamic Unity Party whose units guard the Russian Embassy and are deployed around it, got involved in military actions.

According to the diplomat, his ministry is considering different scenarios of the further development of events. It is working out various plans for reducing the number of embassy members and attending staff.

It will be hard enough to reach this goal, since the "embassy staff has already been cut to a minimum". Nevertheless the Foreign Ministry is prepared to radically reduce its staff in Afghanistan in the interests of ensuring security for it.

Belgrade Diplomats on Sanctions Against FRY

LD2007204892 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1215 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Jul (TANJUG)—President Boris Yeltsin's decision strictly to observe the UN Security Council's resolution on sanctions against Yugoslavia was a forced move and is a formality, circles within the Russian Embassy in Belgrade claimed today.

In its policy toward Yugolsavia the Russian Federation is striving to offer and extend support for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its new leadership, Russian diplomats stress.

They note that all UN member states were obliged by 25 June to pass relevant decisons and to inform the Security Council that they had implemented Resolution 757 providing for sacntions against Yugoslavia. In the case of the Russian Federation, President Yeltsin did not sign such a decision until 14 July. It would have been unusual if Moscow had signed the resolution a day or two after 30 May, the day the resolution was passed, Russian sources say.

Officials in the Russian Embassy say that they have had no indications from Moscow that the number of diplomats in the embassy in Belgrade will be reduced, and express their belief that this also applies to the embassy of Yugoslavia in Russia. Ambassador Gennadiy Shikin and all the diplomats in Belgrade continue to perform their duties.

Diplomats from the Russian Embassy also told TANJUG that Russia will not change the policy toward the FRY it advocated at the recent CSCE meeting in Helsinki, and that its leadership's support for the leadership of new Yugoslavia, with Dobrica Cosic and Milan Panic at the head, will remain unchanged. They say that this policy and support were reflected in the messages sent to Cosic and Panic by President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The decision signed by Boris Yeltsin on 14 July envisages the introduction of all sanctions against Yugoslavia included in the Security Council resolution, for which Russia voted in favor.

Parliamentarian on Plan To Return Kurils

OW2007172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The executive secretary of the Constitutional commission of the Russian Supreme Council Oleg Rumyantsev who is one of the initiators of the parliamentary hearings "On Russian-Japanese relations" appointed for July 28 believes that Boris Yeltsin's cronies "do not properly inform him on the issue of the northern territories". In his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] he expressed concern because "the efforts of representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry's leadership responsible for relations in the Asian-Pacific region are obviously aimed to make a break in the Russian-Japanese relations". According to Rumyantsev, this break would consist of transferring two Kuril islands to Japan namely Khabomai and Shikotan and of preparation to a further transfer of Kunashir and Iturup.

The executive secretary of the Constitutional commission noted that at present the ultra-right forces insist not to transfer these islands to Japan. "The democrats have thoughtlessly handed over the idea of patriotism and of national resurrection of the Russian state to these forces", Rumyantsev stressed.

He considers that the President proper and his copartners must put forward an initiative in this issue and in solving the Kuril islands problem as well. Rumyantsev emphasized that Russia "must definitely declare that Kunashir and Iturup are under its jurisdiction and must gain a mutually acceptable compromise with the Japanese party in respect to Khabomai and Shikotan" which according to him can be found in establishing there a free economic zone.

Fishing Committee Denies Concession on Kurils

PM2107090192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jul 92 First Edition p 6

[Report by Sergey Kukhar: "We Are Not Playing a Give-Away with Japan, and the Kuril Problem Simply Does Not Exist, Fishing Committee Claims. Is That So?"]

[Text] I personally support the theory whose thrust is brilliantly conveyed by the saying "You cannot please everyone." Especially in our newspaper business. But in this case ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA or to be more precise its chief editor (let us stress in parentheses not the author of the item under discussion) have received expressions of dissatisfaction merely for the sake of the notorious protection of military honor, and in this case out of selfish considerations.

Having read in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA my commentary entitled "Playing a Give-Away with Japan. With Whom Will the Next Round Be?" one F.V. Vinogradov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture fishing industry committee's international cooperation administration at No. 12 Rozhdestvenskiy Boulevard, Moscow 103031, complained in distress: "Unfortunately, the author did not contact anyone in the fishing industry committee or the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry to obtain an objective picture of the question upon which he touched." (Here and further I quote, retaining in full the style of F. Vinogradskiy's letter to the editorial office). The curious reader may find out what kind of a "question" this is from the newspaper's issue for 10 June this year. The "objective picture," according to F. Vinogradov and those who instructed him to draw it (and I myself and the staffers of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA international information department have managed to take a close look at it) looks like this.

Russia assigned to South Korea a certain region of the Kuril islands for fishing. "Despite the fact that this region is Russia's 200-mile zone (presumably is inside that zone?—S.K.)," the official from the abovementioned committee writes, "the Japanese side unexpectedly came out with a series of demarches regarding Russian-South Korean agreements." And what do you think? Japan "received from the Russian fishing industry committee firm and unequivocal replies which left no doubts as to the unvarying nature of the Russian fishermen's position regarding the operation of Russian jurisdiction regarding all Kuril islands." Well, as they say, thank God and the "Russian fishermen!" It is true that there is some doubt as to what bearing this has on the thrust of the commentary. That, indeed, also applies to all the other "arguments" set forth in the letter.

But what about Japan? It turns out that it has "given notification of its talks with the Koreans regarding the transfer of the fishing region from the Southern part of the Kurils (which do not belong to it—S.K.) to another region in connection with the danger of a collision between the large Korean vessels (which are a kind of "sea monsters"—S.K.) and the numerous and small vessels of the Japanese fleet (read: defenseless flotilla of paper boats?—S.K.). The Koreans complained about the Japanese and asked for "another, more convenient fishing region."

And what about our fishing committee? It suddenly agreed that "the dissatisfaction of Japan and the Republic of Korea (which seems to have completely forgotten its former satisfaction after obviously having taken a look at Japan—S.K.) with the allocated fishing regions" had become an excellent "prerequisite for conducting separate bilateral consultations" between Moscow and Tokyo and Moscow and Seoul. Here the committee did not forget for a minute, as F. Vinogradov

put it, that "the game of give-away with Japan is not a serious matter for the Russian fishermen" (I sincerely believe it) and most important to this day it is convinced that the Kuril problem simply does not exist.

But that is hardly likely, as one well known movie hero used to say. If only because as a result of the Russian-Japanese dispute over ownership of the South Kurils a peace treaty has not yet been signed between our countries.

I hope that the committee will not regard this political reality as "another story to fuel public opinion," unless, of course, the committee has set itself the aim of saving its own honor by any means.

Shumeyko, Khizha Attend Japanese Economic Forum

OW2007134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow, July 20 KYODO—Russia's First Deputy Minister Vladimir Shumeyko stressed Monday [20 July] that Moscow must learn from Japan's postwar experiences and policy in order to realize a free market in Russia.

In a symposium cosponsored by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, a private Japanese study group, Russia International University, and MOSCOW NEWS, Shumeyko said Russia has to study various specific aspects of the Japanese economy and policy after World War II. He also said Russia needs to take appropriate measures for rooting out evil practices in each business and industry in order to carry out its shift to a market-oriented economy.

The theme of the symposium was examination of Japan's model for reviving the Russian economy. The meeting was attended by Georgiy Khizha, deputy minister, and Andrey Nechayev, economic and planning minister, as well as several business leaders. Japanese participants in the meeting included Kensuke Koga, chairman of Nisshin Steel Co., and Seiji Tsutsumi, chairman of Saison Corp.

Japanese Travel Restrictions To Be Lifted

LD2107082892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 21 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vassiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo July 21 TASS—Russia and Japan consider the possibility to remove restrictions on travels of the two countries' diplomats and officials, Russian diplomats in Tokyo told the ITAR-TASS news agency.

They say that this possibility will probably be discussed during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan next September.

Now Russian and Japanese diplomats have to receive an official permission to travel outside the 40-kilometer radius around Moscow and Tokyo or to go to other specially agreed zones.

Such travel restrictions were initially introduced in the USSR in the 1940s. Similar limitations were later proclaimed by the United States and other Western countries against Soviet officials during the cold war. Japan introduced such measures in 1957.

Commentary on Problems of Foreign Credits

LD2007205292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Commentary by M. Osokin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An accord has been reached to open credit lines for Russia for an amount of about $5.6 billion, RIA reports. Italy, the United States, Canada, France, and the European Community have agreed to give credits. Talks with the FRG and Great Britain are nearing completion.

[Osokin] The former USSR's official debts amount to about $65 billion; most of the money was given to Moscow by members of the Paris Club, a group of Western creditor states. Talks had started even before the Munich meeting of the leaders of major industrial powers on the possibility of granting us a deferment of payments of most of the debts. Russian President Yeltsin made this problem precisely one of his main topics in Munich, and the G-7 leaders agreed, in principle, to meet him halfway because, in their words, Russia showed its adherence to a course of economic reforms.

Events in Moscow since then, however, have caused fresh doubts in the West regarding the direction Russia is going, after all. For example, many people have started mentioning the Russian Parliament's decision to increase the budget deficit. In an earlier agreement with the IMF, Moscow promised, on the contrary, to strive to reduce the deficit. Also, Matyukhin's resignation from the post of head of the Russian Bank was seen by some as an ominous signal. They note that Matyukhin had managed to gain Western trust, but now new problems are arising.

Some Western figures are saying therefore that they intend to oppose the practical implementation of plans for granting us wide-ranging deferment of debt payment, at least for the time being until the situation in Moscow becomes clearer. Others say that although they supported the idea of deferment, they believe it necessary to put on ice the other projects of assisting the Russian economy, specifically, the promised billions of credits.

Well, the champions of giving aid to Moscow are putting forward traditional arguments: They are saying that if Yeltsin's administration fails and falls to pieces, the West will have to spend much more on defense.

Federation Affairs

Political Issues

Signing of Borders Decree To Be Postponed

LD2007102692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The signing of the decree on strengthening Russia's borders by Russian President Yeltsin will probably be postponed.

RIA was told by informed sources at the Republic's Foreign Ministry that the Russian leadership does not want to take such unilateral decisions at the present time, inasmuch as this could complicate relations between Russia and the CIS states.

In the sources' view, the implementation of the concept of Russian borders being proposed in the decree is difficult as a result of this.

The sources also point to the fact that many of Russia's neighbors who previously advocated the strengthening of borders between the countries of the Commonwealth, in particular Ukraine and Azerbaijan, have recently been more inclined to change their attitude to border questions and to maintain transparent borders with Russia.

On the other hand, they are increasingly more vigorously advocating the strengthening of the external borders of the CIS.

According to the sources, the Russian leadership will act in the near future, proceeding from the specific conditions arising on Russia's borders with the Commonwealth states.

The draft decree on strengthening Russia's borders, which was prepared jointly by the Foreign Ministry and representatives of Russia's border troops, has been with the president over a month.

Stankevich on Kozyrev Dismissal Rumors

OW1707180392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sergey Stankevich, an adviser to the Russian President on political questions denied rumors during an interview with Interfax of the upcoming dismissal of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and that Stankevich himself could become the new Foreign Minister. "The question of the resignation of Kozyrev has not been brought up or considered. And it is unlikely that I will take that post," he emphasized.

Answering an IF [INTERFAX] question on whether the position of Minister for CIS affairs would be created and Stankevich's possible assignment to that post, Stankevich said that "this has not yet been decided."

According to the state adviser, it would be worth it to once again consider the purpose of dividing Russia's foreign policy (meaning having both a minister for foreign affairs and a minister for CIS affairs). "It is apparent, Stankevich emphasized, "that the CIS calls for a special and independent sphere of Russian foreign policy. The CIS must be dealt with on a daily basis, and not in between trips to London and Paris."

Relations between Russia and the other independent states have to be studied on an intensive basis, "since now every hour means a lot, and much has already been lost due to the fact that Russia did not sufficiently keep track of the situation and participated in events in republics of the former USSR," Stankevich noted.

Internal Affairs Ministry Issues Statement

LD1407010492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 13 Jul 92

[By KRIM-PRESS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jul—No party will be able to bring the internal affairs bodies back to blind obedience, says a statement by the collegium of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] of the Russian Federation which was circulated on 13 July. The document underlines that all political parties and public organizations, without exception, should act in strict accordance with the law. If any movement tries to destabilize the situation and to violate the Constitution of the country, the necessary forces of the internal affairs bodies will oppose it. "Everybody should realize that MVD employees are supposed to serve its people and the Constitution, the document points out. Nobody should forget that a safe and strong state power, a most important instrument of which is the internal affairs bodies, is required to guarantee human rights."

In the worsening criminal situation the commitments of the internal affairs bodies have increased, every day MVD employees die or receive grave injuries at the hands of criminals. However, in spite of difficulties, the collegium thinks that it has proved possible to avoid confusion, to preserve experienced professionals and to attract the young. An up-to-date legislative base of law and order enforcement activities has been mainly formed thanks to the efforts of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

The statement draws attention to the fact that this year embezzlements of many billions in the economy have been revealed, inter alia in the financing and bank sphere. In the course of implementing the Russian president's decree "On Combating Corruption in the System of State Service" a number of dangerous mafia groupings have been exposed and neutralized, and export from the country of thousands of tonnes of raw materials, goods, and foodstuff is prevented.

Sheynis Comments on Needed Government Actions

MK1707112992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Jul 92 p 2

[Interview with Viktor Sheynis by Vladimir Todres under the "Democrats" rubric; place and date not given; "Viktor Sheynis: 'Let Gaydar Hold Out a Few More Months.' During This Time We Must Endeavor To Do as Much as Possible That Is Irreversible"]

[Text] [Todres] When he came to the recent Congress of Supporters of Reforms (whose organizers included yourself), Yegor Gaydar complained that opposition meetings are distinguished by far greater efficiency than gatherings of democrats. What makes you think that the efficiency of the bloc you are now creating will be any greater?

[Sheynis] Even at first glance that congress differed from the kind of gatherings that "Democratic Russia" has held. There is a saying: "When the water approaches neck level, all start swimming." I think that the water is approaching neck level. I am not the only one to feel this.

But we must be able to realize this political and emotional potential. There are two different levels of work—I saw this so clearly for the first time at the "Civic Union" gathering: One is the rostrum, the hall, the applause, and the picked speakers, while the other is the professional, organizational activity of quite definite people. They are the people who organize a show (in a good sense) for the public, and this very show becomes the starting point for further efforts.

[Todres] It is a question of what efforts you are now capable of making. It is somewhat simpler for the "intransigents" and the "Civic Union": Commune-patriots go off from gatherings to call the people into the streets, and directors go to their offices to use real power. What do you do?

[Sheynis] It is possible to support the "reform team" in different ways. As regards the deputies, things are clear. The resources for supporting Gaydar in parliament have been far from exhausted. Do you remember that the law on bankruptcy did not get through because of a shortfall of three votes in the Soviet of Nationalities? Thirteen members of the chamber that I know would have voted for that law were simply absent....

As for activity outside parliament, I do not think we can manage without creating a new mass party.

[Todres] Attempts have already been made to advise the government and to propose corrections....

[Sheynis] Of course. But I think that the failure of these attempts is a result not so much of rejection by members of the cabinet as of the fact that they are too busy. For it is a question not of making their every step conform with a countless multiplicity of opinions but of working out concise and sensible ideas, maybe even outstripping the government's professionals employed on everyday business. We too are in dire need of experts in the Supreme Soviet.

I repeat, in this way it is possible to create the definite social atmosphere necessary for the birth of a party. You do not know when the next elections will be held, and neither do I, but it is necessary to prepare for them. I am no optimist with regard to the possible voting results in 1992-1993, which is why I opposed the referendum and early elections. But they could be announced, and soon. Therefore, maybe, what is needed now is some semblance of activity—in order to keep afloat the political aktiv which will not allow parliament and the local soviets to be made any worse than they are now.

[Todres] Yet the congress set itself the main task of defending "Gaydar's team." It is a team of which observers speak increasingly frequently in the past tense...

[Sheynis] It seems to me that it was precisely our "Reform" parliamentary group that kept the president and the government from the very rash step of raising Gaydar's confirmation in the post of premier at this session.

[Todres] Do you think that Gaydar will acquire a majority in this parliament in the fall?

[Sheynis] I am frequently asked this question. I always reply: "Fine. Let Gaydar hold out a few more months. During these few months it is necessary to endeavor to do as much as possible that is irreversible. It was incredibly hard, if not impossible, to turn onto the former path." Privatization must take place during these months, and the structure of production must start to change. Unnecessary enterprises will start going bankrupt. During this time it is necessary to hold down the ruble exchange rate, to make the ruble convertible...

[Todres] In order to ruin all this, there is no need at all to go back to building socialism. The legislature has only to reduce taxes, while at the same time devising two or three more global social programs...

[Sheynis] I still think that we will succeed in holding down the situation at least for a few months. Moreover, Yeltsin has been endowed with additional powers through December. It is still possible to do a very great deal before December.

[Todres] Are you not afraid that under the growing influence of "red directors" Yeltsin will begin making quite different use of these powers? The "intransigents" maintain, incidentally, that all sorts of changes of power could occur during the parliamentary vacations, when everything will depend on the president alone.

[Sheynis] I am indeed afraid. Generally, I am very much afraid that the president is in some information field which is not only guidable but guidable unilaterally. Of course, he is not physically able to listen to everyone that might want to come to him and express his views. In this

sense things were far simpler with Yeltsin as chairman of the Supreme Soviet. But I am bewildered as to why there are many people around him who undoubtedly could at any moment plunge a "knife into his back." I am very concerned, in particular, at the prevalence of "people who are not our own" in the ministries that wield the power [silovyye ministerstva]... On the other hand, Andrey Kozyrev might make a lot of mistakes, but he is our minister and it is our policy. I would prefer Yeltsin's information pool to be determined by people like Gaydar or Kozyrev, not by others,

[Todres] I would, however, like the president to have his own views.

[Sheynis] I think he is perfectly well aware of the scale and direction of the historical direction he is taking. He has chosen a place for himself in this row. Is it possible that he will change and take a different path? No one can give any guarantees here—as in Gaydar's case, for example...

[Todres] But to what extent does Yeltsin himself understand the steps that are taken in his name? Observers cannot simply forget how at the beginning of the reform he said that "the price liberalization is a temporary measure..."

[Sheynis] All these things are new to him—as they are, incidentally, to us all. It has to be said that they are frequently rather subtle. I do not think, for example, that he went carefully into the tax situation before it became exacerbated. Yeltsin is, however, a clever man and grasps an idea very quickly, on the wing.

[Todres] It is embarrassing that the president's many slips of the tongue also include ones that "let the cat out of the bag"—they are obviously subconscious, yet very significant. In KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA recently, for example, Yeltsin first promised to test the government on its "national purity" and then was indignant because the Uzbek authorities are taking the same approach with respect to the army...

[Sheynis] Well, knowing Boris Nikolayevich's career, his experience, and a whole series of his actions—both those that have brought him glory and those that he endeavors to forget—knowing, finally, his very sincere book, knowing all this, I believe that if there is anything surprising it is the fact that such gaffes are comparatively rare. In general, it could all be worse. Gaydar's government has lasted until now, above all precisely due to the fact that Yeltsin has supported and defended it.

Congress of Minor Russian Cities Concludes

LD1807164992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow July 16 TASS—Participants of the Congress of Minor Russian Cities, which concluded here today [16 July], called on the president of the Russian Federation to take necessary measures for ensuring realization of the local self-administration legislation. They represented cities with a population of up to 100 thousand. The appeal to the head of the state contained request to form a state commision to resolve problems concerning the revival of minor cities, to work out an appropriate programme and create a state or president's fund for financing it. The congress appealed the Russian Government to declare its readiness to sign the European local self-administration charter. According to participants of the congress, such a step will "prove that Russia actively joins international coopeeration for the establishment of democratic institutions."

Documents passed in the forum substantiated the necessity of the redistribution of administrative powers among regions, districts and minor cities in the favour of the latter. Finding solutions to questions like preparation of budget and defining the borders of cities, according to participants of the congress, should be transferred to local adminstrations' jurisdiction as of today.

Consolidation Party News Conference on Aims

LD1807111792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent M. Aleksandridi on news conference by Russian Consolidation Party on 15 July, including recorded remarks made during interviews by party and other officials at news conference; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Aleksandridi] A party of people opposed to the confrontation that is now splitting society announced its existence on 15 July at a news conference at the Russian Charity Center. [Video shows exterior of Russian Charity Center building, followed by interviews with individuals]

[A. Tikhonov, chairman of Organizing Committee of the Party of Consolidation] The program of the Consolidation Party [Partiya Konsolidatsii] includes the idea of reviving Russia without conflicts. We hope that the program and the party itself will attract the attention of Russia's population, will serve the cause of the Republic's restoration, and will help to strengthen its position.

[V. Ispravnikov, chairman of Russia's Supreme Economic Council] The Supreme Economic Council is a body of legislative power and purely a nonparty body, but we are interested by one thing about this party and its organization. They have made our work and our program: shock-free reforms, the basis of their own economic program.

[V.I. Tolstenko from Yekaterinburg] Parties will never win prestige unless they rely on the regions and each specific individual living in the regions. Let me as a representative of the Urals and Siberian region, and as someone who knows it well, say honestly that what is

being said by this new party now being established accords with the thoughts and the attitudes in general of our serious region.

[A.Drozdov, editor in chief of ROSSIYA] The ROSSIYA newspaper has been and remains a nonparty paper. Why then are we sympathetic toward the proposals of the Party of Consolidation? The main themes of our work coincide with the proposals of the Party of Consolidation, which are that at last the population should be relieved of their vigil in expectation of something terrible, unexpected, bitter, and unpleasant.

'Civil Union' Critical of 'RF-Politica'

LD2007164592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The Russian "RF-Politica" faction was strongly denounced by representatives of the political bloc "Civil Union" for what was described as an attempt "to drive a wedge between the Russian president and constructive socio-political forces, fighting against Russia's disintegration and seeking its revival."

The "Civil Union", which consists of the People's Party of Free Russia, the Democratic Party of Russia, the "Renewal" Union and the "Smena-Novaya Politika" faction, issued a statement on Monday [20 July] following a report by the "RF-Politica" centre, which was published by the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" on July 7.

According to the report, entitled "Nomenklatura's Revenge", "the present stage of the country's development is ending with another victory of "Nomenklatura" which for the most part has regained its former political positions in the sphere of power."

The "Civil Union" bloc described the "RF-Politica" centre as an organisation, supported by Gennadiy Burbulis and other influential officials, which is carrying out a planned action to destabilize society, and is characterised by its "provocative statements and insinuations, and attempts to bring back the days of the "witch hunt".

Forum Held on Anti-Semitism, Fascism

LD1907053692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1835 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By Oleg Velichko, ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 16 July—The threat of genocide against ethnic minorities, including Jews, is presently quite real. This was stated at the Forum of Democratic Forces Against Anti-Semitism and Fascism that took place in Moscow on 16 July. It was held at the initiative of the Cultural and Educational Society, the Union of Jewish War Veterans, the Russian Anti-Fascist Center, and "Aprel" [April], a writers' organization. The forum of democratic forces stated that it intends to demand that the Russian Supreme Soviet hold special hearings on the issue of anti-semitism.

Ministry Denies Deputies KGB Informers

OW2007141592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Security Ministry claims that Deputies Gleb Yakunin and Lev Ponomarev published in the press classified government information. Today the ministry's public relations center has released a report according to which on May 30 the ministry had requested the Prosecutor General to take the appropriate measures against the deputies. On July 6, the report continues, the General Prosecutor's Office asked the Investigation Department of the Security Ministry to make an additional investigation, after which a definitive decision is to be made.

According to the public relations center's report, Yakunin and Ponomarev had access to the ministry's secret archives as members of the parliamentary commission investigating the preparation of last year's abortive coup d'etat.

Earlier on there were reports in the media, with references to Security Ministry officers, to the effect that Yakunin and Ponomarev had worked for the KGB as secret informers - something the public relations center denies - and that the Security Ministry demanded that they be prosecuted.

Agriculture Issues

Weather Damage, Harvest Campaign Problems

PM2107102292 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 1

[Reports by correspondent S. Shipunova from Krasnodar and by ITAR-TASS observer A. Dzyublo, with unattributed introduction: "Anxieties and Hopes of Harvest Time"]

[Text] Swarms of locusts suddenly descended on the fields and meadows of Irkutsk Oblast, and in Dagestan snow fell a meter thick, not only killing 10,000 sheep, but ruining the future potato and vegetable harvest. These two events of recent days, things that happen only once in 100 years in the regions in question, are bound to be seen as omens of disaster. Many regions of Russia have been hit by drought. Forest fires continue to rage in Amur, Irkutsk, Chita, Kaliningrad, Moscow, and Leningrad Oblasts, Krasnoyarsk and Khabarovsk Krays, Yakutia, Buryatia, and Khakasia. In Volgograd, Rostov, and Saratov Oblasts in recent days wheat sowings with a

total area of 125 hectares were destroyed by fire. What will become of the 1992 harvest? Does a winter of famine lie ahead for us?

These questions torment us all today. Russian Federation Agriculture Minister V. Khlystun stated recently that instead of the expected 104-108 million tonnes of grain crops, it is realistic to count on 98 million. But they still have to be harvested and kept safe, which will also be very difficult. Because in addition to the elements, the spontaneous forces of pseudomarket reform are also raging in Russia's fields.

Our own correspondent and an ITAR-TASS observer report on the situation that has developed in the Kuban and in other regions.

Unrisen Bread

At the beginning of the harvesting season, the Kuban government declared a state of emergency in agriculture. This was vividly reminiscent of the days of the party "battles for grain," which our democrats were only recently criticizing so self-confidently. Now that they themselves have to answer for the results of the kray's most important economic campaign, they could think of no other way of influencing it than the notorious "emergency" approach.

But whatever the political slogans, the grain growers know their job, their sense of duty has not deserted them, and they are harvesting the grain with the same commitment and sense of responsibility as before.

This year's difficulties stem from two main factors. One is as old as the hills—the weather; the other is the result of the new economic policy.

An unprecedentedly rainy summer and torrential downpours mixed with hail have severely damaged the crops, and in places completely beaten them down. Some 80 percent of the barley and wheat are squashed as flat as if they had been flattened with a roller. Harvesting is possible only with the help of specially equipped reapers. Thank heaven, the farms have them. For the same reason—the abundance of rain, coupled with the acute shortage of herbicides, there are more weeds than ever before in the fields this year. An inspection of 862,000 hectares on the eve of the harvest showed that on half the sown area the wheat is infected with fusarium scab of the ears. The spread of this disease to all plants makes them unsuitable for food use.

So many troubles all at once.

In general, because of bad weather, the harvest in the Kuban is now running 10 days late. But by mid-July the peas and barley were virtually fully harvested, yielding 43.5 quintals per hectare. Now the farms have embarked on harvesting the wheat. The first threshings are showing a yield averaging 40 quintals, but it would be premature to regard this as a final result.

The confusion in the economy and pricing has mainly affected the availability of equipment (this year the farms have bought virtually no new combines, and are working with what they have) and particularly fuels and lubricants. Bashkortostan, until recently the main supplier, has unexpectedly found a more advantageous partner, and declined a contract with the Kuban. The farms are in a difficult situation, and many of them are bringing in only enough fuel for a day or two at a time. There can be no question of laying in stocks for the post-harvest work and the wide range of fall field work.

Rather than relying on the state, the kray has concluded mutually beneficial contracts with Yaroslavl and Nizhniy Novgorod Oblasts, from where fuel is now being delivered in exchange for grain and other agricultural products.

In all, grain has to be harvested from an area of 1,608,000 hectares. That is less than in past years, but still a substantial area. For comparison: On peasants' and private farms, only 7,000 hectares in all are sown with grain crops. This figure alone is enough to make it clear that it is premature, to say the least, to talk about the private farmer feeding us.

And another problem. Southern Russia is the first to form a grain market. What prices will the state and the producer farms agree on this year? The agriculturalists themselves think that today an objective price for a kilogram of regular wheat would be 10 rubles [R], but at the elevators they are offered R6. Naturally, the owners of the grain are beginning to seek richer buyers than the state. Today, for instance, the Moscow region is already offering the Kuban R12.50 per kilogram, and Tyumen is also giving a good price. So it cannot be ruled out that this year the Kuban's grain could bypass the state granaries.

And while the problem of prices for the new crop of grain is being resolved, the Kuban's bread stores are experiencing another boom. Bread prices were released in mid-July. Now a white loaf costs R30, a long loaf is R17, a "brick" made from coarse flour is R8, and black bread is R9.

Arguing Outside the Empty Granaries

An operational analysis of harvesting work in Russia's fields carried out by Ministry of Agriculture specialists confirmed the preliminary predictions about the expected grain harvest this year. As First Deputy Minister Vladimir Shcherbak told the AGROPRESS agency, judging by the situation in mid-July, approximately 96 million tonnes can be expected.

The harvesting front is rapidly advancing from the southern grain fields to more northerly regions. Last week combines appeared in the fields of the Central Chernozem. Because of the drought, the harvest here is lower than expected. In this context the wheat from the

Kuban, the Don, and Stavropol Kray, where the harvest campaign is approaching its peak, is all the more important.

However much climatic conditions may vary, problems common to all regions are already emerging.

In terms of material and technical supply, the problems are associated primarily with fuel supplies. Every day, in the log book kept by duty officials at the operations headquarters that operates around the clock in Moscow's Orlikovoy Pereulok, entries appear on disruptions to deliveries of fuel and lubricants to various regions of Russia. Things have gone so far that the other day Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy himself was forced to give a "push" to trains carrying fuel, sending them where the grain farmers urgently need them.

But even in regions where full-scale harvesting operations still lie ahead, the same problems can be expected. For instance, because of the lack of fuel, truck drivers from the Kuzbass cannot travel to help the Altay grain growers. And in Khabarovsk Kray grain shipments may be under threat because of difficulties in forming the military truck battalions. Here, the reason is a lack of economic coordination. However, the main economic question in the 1992 harvest is the setting of purchase prices for the new crop of grain.

It is well known that the grain farmers of the Kuban, the Don, and Stavropol Kray have more or less set an ultimatum, demanding that the procurement workers pay R15-22 per kilogram of grain sold to the state; they justify this in terms of the huge increase in the financial cost of producing it. And the Russian Ministry of Agriculture also recognizes that the prices on which the Committee for Grain Products is insisting are too low. Here a price of R10 per kilogram of grain is considered the optimum. By way of evidence, experts cite calculations showing that at the prices in effect as of 1 July this year the prime cost of a kilogram of grain is now at the level of R5.1 (and even less in the Kuban). So in their opinion a price of R10 is quite adequate to provide a return of nearly 100 percent for grain farming.

As for how this dispute will end, only time will tell, but in the meantime the grain growers are in no hurry to fulfill the "first commandment." According to the figures for 13 July, only 3,000 tonnes of grain from the new harvest have arrived "in the state's granaries."

The main thing now is to safeguard the crop that has already been harvested. It would be as well for this understanding to be backed up by confidence on the part of the peasants, who are still clutching their "Harvest-90" checks for millions of rubles, which they were unable to exchange for goods.

Threshed Grain Passes 3 Million Tonne Mark

PM1707113592 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 17 Jul 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Winter Will Request What Summer Lays In"]

[Text] So, harvest work—work that is difficult and largely unpredictable—is gathering pace every day.

The first million hectares of grain crops have been threshed. This is around 2 percent of sown crops. The total amount of grain threshed has passed the 3 million tonne mark. So far the harvest yield is 32.3 quintals per hectare.

Commenting on the situation that has developed, I.I. Gridasov, deputy chief of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture Farming Main Administration, said that the committee for grain products is suggesting a price in the region of 10,000 rubles [R] per tonne. But the peasants think that this is too little. And feed prices are too low altogether—R4,600 per tonne. At this price nobody will be delivering feed grain.

Rutskoy Comments on 'Sluggish Pace' of Reforms

LD1907173692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Report by V. Vinogradov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Judging by the deliveries of imports to Russia, we are developing agriculture overseas and not here. Aleksandr Rutskoy drew this conclusion at his meeting with agrarians on the initiative of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions.

Rutskoy has expressed his dissatisfaction with the sluggish pace of agricultural reforms. The agrarians have complained about the total collapse of the countryside. [passage omitted]

The people of the villages sent their envoys with one request—help. The kolkhozes have already engendered huge debts to the state for 1991; therefore, there are those who are saying that it is not worth handing over produce until the debts are eliminated. The cash situation is catastrophic. People are receiving no money for four months at a time. This is already leading to starvation.

[Begin unidentified delegation member recording] I feel very sorry for those old men and women who are on their own and who today have nothing to eat. They come and say: Give me 100 rubles. I will go and buy myself some bread and something else to eat. People are in favor of the reforms, but they need to be certain of what the future holds for them. [end recording]

Due to this lack of certainty, strike committees are already being set up in Ivanovo Oblast. They will impede

the sale of bread. They consider that since the state is failing to fulfill its constitutional obligations, they are not bound to fulfill theirs.

Minister on Harvest Situation, Problems

Uses of IMF Loan

PM1707151192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 1

[Interview with Viktor Khlystun, Russian minister of agriculture, by correspondent I. Abramenko; place and date not given: "We'll Carve It Up Like This... Evening Phone Call to Agriculture Minister"]

[Text] The $1 billion allocated by the IMF to increase Russia's foreign currency reserves has been earmarked entirely for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun answered our correspondent's questions in a brief telephone interview.

[Abramenko] What will the money be spent on, Viktor Nikolayevich?

[Khlystun] Primarily on developing, supporting, and creating an infrastructure for banks specializing in agriculture. But this represents only some of our interests. There are several specific programs—for sugar, stock seeds, dairy stockraising, and the preparation of technical services for farmers—in which funds will be invested. These are the priority areas of agriculture which simply must be financed.

[Abramenko] When will the money be available to the ministry?

[Khlystun] I can't tell you anything about the timetable, unfortunately. It simply hasn't been worked out yet. There has just been a political and, as it were, general resolution to allocate $1 billion. Moreover, we also need the government to ratify the financing of the programs we have spotlighted, so it is still too early to be talking about what proportion of the money each of them will get.

Situation 'Not Disastrous'

PM2007134192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Musiyenko under the general headline "Prepare the Harvest Sack...": "Lest We Get Nothing for Our Pains"]

[Text] The current situation is difficult but not disastrous, Russian Agriculture Minister V. Khlystun stated at an extended collegium session. The gross yield is currently expected to be at last year's level, and even somewhat higher as far as grain is concerned. If only we could take this statement on trust and rejoice along with the minister that Russians are not threatened by famine. However, news at the local level is causing considerable alarm.

The protracted spring and severe drought that have hit many regions have had a dire effect on the crops. The first grass cutting yielded on average only about half the green matter cut at the same time last season. Livestock will therefore be on extremely meager rations again, and we will be short of a decent amount of milk and meat. Most kolkhozes and sovkhozes, not to mention private farmers, cannot afford combines and other hardware or the spare parts for them. The fuel situation is bad, particularly in Altay and the Orenburg region. The Russian leadership, which has gotten carried away redistributing land and reorganizing large-scale farms, has only come to its senses at the last minute, remembered the traditional administrative-edict levers, and hurriedly established a Harvest-92 headquarters...

Promises Farmers Support

LD1907181192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Russia intends to continue supporting the farmers' movement in every possible way, Viktor Khlystun, Russian Federation minister of agriculture, said on 17 July in his speech at a meeting of the Farmers' Council. This council is the governing body of the Association of Peasant Holdings and Agricultural Cooperatives, known as AKKOR, which unites around 100,000 Russian farmers. The minister said that in the first half of the year the government earmarked 7.3 billion rubles for promoting farmers. Almost 1.5 billion was allocated to sponsoring resettlers from cities and from other republics, as well as former servicemen who chose to engage in farming. Subsidised prices on fuels and lubricants have been introduced, while state subsidies of animal husbandry produce have doubled.

Grain Price Demands Excessive

LD1907181292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The fulfillment of the demand by Russia's grain producing regions to set the purchase price of grain at a level of 14 or 15 rubles per kilogram could cause livestock breeding to collapse, Russian Minister of Agriculture Viktor Khlystun has stated. He said that in that case the government would be unable to subsidize livestock breeding sufficiently to prevent it from losing money. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture has recommended an average purchase price of 10 rubles per kilogram, which will be possible thanks to subsidies to this branch of agriculture. Mayak has already reported that even with this price for grain, the price of bread could more than double.

Interviewed on Reforms

LD2107102692

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1445 GMT on 20 July broadcasts a 13-minute interview with Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun by correspondent S. Torchinskiy. The interview is from the "Facing Russia" program.

The programme opens with shots of people walking amid open country and cars and buses parked in a field. The narrator says that they are visiting the Solnechnogorskiy rayon farm of Aleksey Kochetkov, a millionaire private farmer, and that Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun is among the visitors. Khlystun is shown sitting in the audience in a meeting hall. The remainder of the program is taken up by correspondent S.Torchinskiy's interview with Khlystun, standing amid a crowd in the open air. The interview runs as follows:

[Torchinskiy] "What frightens me most is this euphoria: we have found a new way to improve agriculture, and it is private farming across the board. From this point of view, this private farm..."

[Khlystun, interrupting] "Where do you see this euphoria?"

[Torchinskiy] "It does exist."

[Khlystun] "I don't expect it at all."

[Torchinskiy] "In public opinion it exists like this: we will destroy, smash everything we have had, we will build private farms, provide the land, and all the problems are solved."

[Khlystun] "This stance is at the least ill-informed, and at most not a sensible one. It is quite obvious that in our country, with the real historical and economic conditions, we must have a sensible combination of big production, middle-sized production, and small, family production. It would be difficult to suppose now that we could destroy and altogether eliminate the huge animal husbandry complexes, and there is no need for this. I said at the presentation today that the main principle of our reform is that we are giving people the right to choose. That is the starting point from which reform has to proceed."

Khlystun says people have to be prepared to realize their own potential, and offers the example of a Rostov oblast state farm worker who last year built up his own farm without major investment from outside.

"At the time he took advantage of relatively cheap prices for construction materials and for farm machinery. Now, of course, the situation has become much more difficult, because of the jump in prices for building materials, for services, and for farm machinery, putting the private farmer in a very difficult situation. This has come about particularly because he will obtain the agriculture produce only after a certain time, but he has to obtain the machinery today."

[Torchinskiy] "Machinery that he cannot get credits for today".

[Khlystun] "As for the credits, you can hear a lot of shouting about the very difficult position that agriculture is in today, and indeed that is so. But realistically we cannot inject a significant mass of credit into the national economy today, because, you understand, that means a fresh inflationary spiral, with possible hyperinflation to follow. So there are very strict limitations. However, within the framework of these strict limitations, even today, virtually half of the whole mass of credit has been given to the agricultural complex. It is agriculture which gets preferential credits—at 8 percent for private farmers and 25 percent for other goods producers. Of course, the subsidy for animal husbandry produce, meat and dairy products, is not very big, but all the same, it is a supporting subsidy that makes it possible to survive."

Khlystun says subsidies need to be adjusted region by region according to objective needs. He calls for farms to use their resources thriftily, and says that if the average farm is taken as the norm, then a small budget subsidy is needed for survival. If the wasteful farms are taken as the norm, there is no way that the budget can support farms. Khlystun says he wants to support the private farmers who grit their teeth and make the best of what they have, rather than those who go round pleading for financial help.

[Torchinskiy] "What is the criterion for who gets help? I know hundreds of private farmers who have been gritting their teeth for years and trying to do something with the land; they get a harvest but they are living in tents."

[Khlystun] "As for credits, we have already decided to allocate 10 billion rubles extra, and I would like to point out the following: the first time, we allocated 33 billion rubles to all the other agricultural producers, and 8 billion rubles for private farmers. That is, a ratio of 8/33, with a completely different ratio of production volume. At every stage—preferential credits, the private farmer gets 8 percent, the rest 25 percent. We are now allocating 22 billion rubles for all the other goods producers, and 10 billion rubles for private farmers. That is, the government is helping private farmers as far as it is able, and the private farmers who say the government has today turned its back on them are absolutely wrong."

Promotes Cooperative Principles

LD2007232192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Russian Minister of Agriculture Viktor Khlystun believes that the private farmers' movement needs the rational application of the cooperative principle [razumnoye kooperirovaniye]. Today there are 130,000 private

plots already in operation in Russia, he said, speaking on 20 July at the opening of the Farmer-92 festival in Moscow.

The festival was organized by the association of private plots and agricultural cooperatives of Russia. In an interview to a RIA correspondent, among the main difficulties facing private plots, Khlystan mentioned their criticial financial state. Because of rising prices private farmers are unable to purchase the equipment required and facilities for the storage of produce, he said.

In the minister's view, private farmers' main task today is, while developing industrial production, to go over to the rational application of the cooperative principle in the spheres of processing, storage, supply and marketing.

State Farms Demand Doubling of Grain Prices

LD2007092292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0657 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Most Russian state and collective farms are not satisfied with the price for grain announced by the government and demand that it be doubled, according to reports from various regions of the country.

The state will pay an average of eight thousand roubles for a tonne of grain this year, Russian Deputy Finance Minister Alexey Krasnopivtsev announced last Friday [17 July], but farmers said they would go bankrupt if the price is not raised to 15 thousand roubles per tonne.

In Stavropol region, southern Russia, where two million tonnes of grain have been already harvested, collective farms are not selling it to the state. State and collective farms were obliged to sell a share of crops to the state at fixed prices. "Our economists calculated that the price for grain should be two times higher", Valeriy Tarasov, chairman of a joint stock company in Kursk region told TASS.

In Tambov region, peasants dropped their ultimatum threatening a strike and began the harvest, however they also demand higher wholesale prices. Their colleagues along the Don River threaten to cease shipments of food to cities next week if the price is not raised. The same mood is reigning in Saratov region and in the Far East. However, Far Eastern peasants agree to sell grain for 12 thousand roubles per tonne.

Despite unanimous demands to raise the price two-fold, farmers will hardly succeed to achieve it. If they refuse to sell grain to the state, they will have to market it at grain exchanges where the price at present equals 10.5 thousand roubles.

The government-set price will make a loaf of bread cost 1.5 times more. 15 thousand roubles per tonne of grain will trigger a four-fold increase in prices of bread in Russia.

Union Says Farmers Plan 5 Aug Solidarity Day

LD2007232892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] According to Russia's agricultural trade union, farmers in 30 regions of Russia set up their own strike committees and plan to hold a day of farmers' solidarity on 5 August. They are discontented with low purchase prices for grain and high prices for agricultural equipment. The strike committees intend to place pickets around the buildings of local administrations and are calling for the stopping of food supplies to cities.

Meanwhile, the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions has announced it will abstain from any strikes, at least for the next two months.

Supreme Soviet

General Issues

Khasbulatov on Politics, Parliament's Work

LD1807210592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1510 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, by Oleg Poptsov, chairman of Russian television and radio, and V. Logunov, editor in chief of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, on 17 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Poptsov] Ruslan Imranovich, it is literally only a matter of minutes since the presidium meeting ended and since the session ended. It seems to me that it was one of the most heavy and difficult sessions of the Supreme Soviet. I do not think this is an exaggeration. Now, before any time has really elapsed—although obviously any analysis will have to come a little later—how would you assess this session? What at this session do you, as chairman, regard as a victory? What law proved the most difficult and gave you a colossal sense of satisfaction when it was successfully adopted?

[Khasbulatov] You are right. This session was probably one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult. Obviously many different circumstances served to make it so difficult. Naturally deputies and parliamentarians cannot fail to feel the colossal pressure from society, which is going through exceptionally difficult—to be blunt, critically difficult—times and a period when reforms are being carried out. The reforms are accompanied by very complex and contradictory processes, including a deterioration in people's material situation and a major slump in industrial production. The deputies are experiencing strong influences and effects from their electorates. This is being reflected in the work of parliament. The deputies, through the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, are seeking to have more of an effect and impact on the government. This is quite natural.

I am not excited by the deputies' remarks or by critical remarks by members of parliament. As soon as deputies start criticizing some aspect of the government's policy,

they are immediately called reactionaries. Of course, this is not right, not right at all. That is why—I repeat—this complication influences to a major extent the distribution of political forces and deputies' moods. The general state of our economy, of our internal policy as a whole—and not just of our internal policy, but also of our foreign policy, which, to put it bluntly, is not marked with great success, as well as relations in the border areas of the Russian Federation, which tend to be exacerbated from time to time, and also the constant clashes in the border areas and even deep in the Russian Federation in a number of republics, oblasts, and krays—all this makes our society extremely excitable. Then deputies pick up these moods.

As for the most satisfaction, as you said, I would like to tell you frankly that I have not experienced any great satisfaction on any of the laws. Why? Because one single law, no matter how perfect it is, cannot change our conditions and cannot change socioeconomic relations. We must look at things as a whole; for example, what we have done during the year or during six months or in the period after the congress. However, if one is to generalize, the past session was the most productive and effective.

Each day we were to adopt two to three laws and make several decisions. In general, one can say that we put into action a whole block of laws which allows, where the government policy is being successfully implemented, tangible results to really be achieved.

If one speaks about certain satisfaction, the laws we adopted in the last few days on the introduction of amendments and additions to the law connected with prices and taxes managed to achieve a substantial reduction in taxation both on enterprises as well as on individuals. Unfortunately, this price liberalization—I want to reiterate what I have always affirmed—it is hard for me to call it liberalization. Under conditions of closed markets and universal shortages, a freeing of prices is almost impossible. Without it the state does the regulating. Such a rejection of state regulation leads to price rises. One does not know on what level the prices will stop. Why? Because there is a shortage. It is difficult to produce things, to expand production. Why is this difficult? Because there is no electricity, there are no goods, and there are no raw materials. [interruption indistinct]

Naturally, it is much better for the producer of goods—production is being forced out, production is being reduced—but more profit is being obtained on account of manipulation. No one restricts it. In the West the so-called concept of unethical profits exists on competitive markets, which are precisely obtained at the expense of artificially inflated prices.

We keep going on about competition and market forces. We even want to leave the market economy of the Western countries and are attempting to get something done here. Therefore, we have achieved agreement. We have to demonstrate....[changes thought] By agreement I mean agreement with the government. But what kind of agreement? One has, quite frankly, had to exert very strong pressure. We have reached some kind of agreement, both with the president and with the acting head of government, and we have embarked on a substantial reduction of these very taxes. We have extended a range of benefits, including benefits for regions suffering from misfortune, not to mention the Chernobyl aftermath—whole social categories. We have very substantially cut taxes on culture, then on new investment, so as to show enterprises some prospects and to interest them. We did the same thing for imported goods, and for those oriented toward people, such as foodstuffs and consumer goods. The government proposed that we leave these taxes, but we have shortages. For example, an organization imports freight and we tax this organization or businessman. In this way we eliminate the possibility of profitably carrying out these operations to import various types of goods. This is unthinkable!

The next thing was not bad either. I consider it successful. What I am talking about is a very serious law serving as an appendix to the law on payment for land. We implemented a whole range of progressive amendments in this law, basically permitting freer implementation of market economy operations.

I will take this opportunity to inform television viewers that the attempt to paint the Russian parliament as reactionary has absolutely no bearing on the truth, if one objectively examines the laws we have adopted in the recent period. I want to say that certain people were in the mood to dispute who is subordinate to whom, and so forth. We are subordinate to no one. We are involved in constructive interaction on the basis of partnership. We must cooperate and respect all types of authority and all branches of authority.

The government should have its own face and its own direction. The parliament should have its own. Each of us, every branch of power, should act in accordance with the law.

[Poptsov] On the whole, Ruslan Imranovich, how would you characterize the parliament's image? I am asking this question because due to journalists' efforts an image of a reactionary parliament which opposes a progressive course by the government is being created in society. What do you think? Has the parliament, compared to the parliament which stood up to the putsch, moved to the right? Has it grown wiser or is it lagging behind the needs of the time? What do you think?

[Khasbulatov] I think it has grown wiser. This is easy for me. Hardly anyone else could give a correct answer to this question.

[Poptsov] On the whole, it is pleasant to realize that it has grown wiser.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, it has grown wiser. It has become more experienced, you know, considerably more experienced. Unfortunately, I do not want to say anything bad

about anybody but, speaking with absolute honesty, the trouble in the interaction between the parliament and the government lies in the fact that economists and production people and financial experts and bankers are considerably more experienced in the Russian parliament. They are the people who know economic life not from books and not from television, but those who know well economic life and the market. They therefore know the budget. They sometimes cannot find a trillion there or hundreds of billions of rubles. Why? Because people do not know how to calculate, to find how and what. The bureaucracy which has crept into government corridors is calling the tune at present, and not the members of the government themselves.

[Poptsov] Well, Ruslan Imranovich, objectively speaking, bureaucracy has crept in. You admitted at the presidium that it has crept into the corridors of the Supreme Soviet as well and that you are very worried about this.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, I admitted this a long time ago. I admit it and it worries me a lot.

[Poptsov] Only a few minutes ago you mentioned this.

[Khasbulatov] You keep saying this like I am going to deny it.

I think that our bureaucracy does not influence decision-making by the Supreme Soviet. You know that it influences myself least of all. Isn't that so? You all understand that perfectly. Unforuntately, in government circles that same bureaucracy is ruling the roost that ruled the roost [as heard] for decades in the central departments of the former Soviet Union. That is clear. That is where the serious threat comes from.

[Poptsov] True.

[Khasbulatov] They do not know what the market is. As I have already asked several times, are we closer to the market or to military communism? Have you noticed? I am not saying this for nothing. It seems that with one hand we are making market laws, but sometimes decisions are made at the level of executive authorities which cut right across that market system and market relations. Some sort of compulsory decisions are being introduced.

The government has now for the first time come up against a powerful codified force in parliament which is able to sort out all these complexities. Then they ask: What has happened to this one and what has happened to that one? So as you see, quite frankly, they do not know what answer to give. You will say that is very good. Well, it is not very good. The government must be stronger, or in any event it must not be inferior to the members of parliament in qualifications.

[Poptsov] Ruslan Imranovich, as to this image of parliament that you mentioned, I would like to be a little more specific about this image of deputies. Don't you think there is an obvious danger—I personally am very worried about this—that in the mind of the deputy the notion gets established that everything that moves, everything that breathes, everything that flies, everything that walks, and everything around us is subservient to us alone. This is an overestimation of one's own importance, which is always exceedingly dangerous, at whatever level it may be. Am I mistaken, or do you see such a danger?

[Khasbulatov] No, I would agree with you to a certain extent. There are, of course, deputies who do indeed feel that since they are deputies, that is the the very highest authority and everyone must submit to deputies. That is not so. You know, I have written articles and made statements and am now preparing a leaflet on the theory of parliamentarianism. Today in my brief concluding speech I also said that in any democratic society—democratic societies are based on parliamentarianism, on parliament, on representative institutions and representative power—not everything is subject to representative power. Of course it is not.

The divisions of power, or each branch of authority, should be equally powerful. We have the president, we have the government; we have legal power, constitutional power, and the procuracy. All of them exist independent from each other. The parliament, as the highest legislative body, has certain priorities. What are they? They are implemented in two directions. First, the parliament is the legislator. Nobody in the state but the parliament has the right to adopt laws. Here we have one priority—the law which is adopted by the parliament. Second, supreme control is carried out by the parliament over the implementation of these laws, including control over the executive bodies of power. This does not mean that the president and the government should be absolutely obedient to it. Sometimes this is very difficult. There is a demand that a certain member of the government, or the head of the government, or the president, and whoever, should be immediately called in. At times it is difficult to explain that he should not be called in immediately. One should show some respect. Sometimes attempts are made to exert pressure on the court, on the procuracy, as well as on the press. This also takes place. Some people mistakenly think that I am one of those who tries to influence the press. On the contrary, I support the press. You remember how hard we worked to prepare and to submit a good law on the press and freedom of the press.

[Logunov] Ruslan Imranovich, may I ask you one question? You have already touched on this issue. I would like to go back to an issue that is probably more important. How do you assess the state of society...?

[Khasbulatov, interrupting] You said it is not very important?

[Logunov] Just now there has been a conversation. [as heard] A lot of it will be shown. Certain relations have already been expressed during it. Turning to the state of society, what do you think about the activities of the parliament or of the government in terms of the present

state of society, which is indeed a difficult, perhaps tragically difficult, state? In my opinion, this is a very....

[Khasbulatov, interrupting] Yes, you have touched upon one of the most serious spheres. I would not say that there is total adequacy. This inadequacy is reflected, to a major extent, in a prism of those legislative proposals that we have to take from the government and demand from the government. I am deeply convinced that here we need more serious and energetic measures in order somehow to suspend the further fall of production, both industrial and agricultural.

Our power system is in the process of collapse. The former Soviet Union possessed a unique power system. It was unique by dint not only of its gigantic volume, but also by dint of the fact that it operated exclusively without interruption.

[Poptsov] [words indistinct]

[Khasbulatov] Yes. Exclusively. Now this is being disrupted. The railway network and communications are being disrupted. Industrial output, the fall in industry, already amounts to 30 to 32 percent. If major stabilization measures are not now taken to at least stop this freefall, this slump in industrial output, it will be very difficult for us. The same goes for agriculture. Take a look. Very unpleasant processes are taking place. First, the process of the creation of private farmers has almost totally ground to a halt. One of the first laws in the Russian parliament in 1990....

[Poptsov, interrupting] There was an explosion.

[Khasbulatov] It was adopted in 1990. It was exactly what I ordered, on peasant farmers' holdings. In August 1990 we adopted the first law....

[Poptsov, interrupting] We celebrated then!

[Khasbulatov] Yes. One would have thought so. But now look what we are dealing with. Look at what happened at the congress. You give land. If you do not give land you are reactionary deputies, although there is the chance to obtain land. The only thing, you recall, was the moratorium on the sale of land. Please, farmer, obtain your land. Help yourself. Start up your private farm. We have several draft laws providing for this. But, look, in certain oblasts and krays one-third of the lands transferred to the jurisdiction of peasant holdings are not even sown. There is no possibility. You said quite correctly that it is a new explosion. Where does a peasant get 1 million rubles to buy a minitractor, fertilizer, and some other complex agricultural systems and machinery? It is very complex. It is very difficult. Even major collective farms, former millionaires, cannot cope. State farms cannot cope. Again, this process of creating private farmers has ground to a halt because we are experiencing hard times and people have somehow become used to doing things not individually but together. It seems that a year or two ago people were ready to leave the collective farms and state farm; now, as you know, they are clinging to these collective farms and state farms.

[Poptsov] Excuse me, do you remember Bryansk?

[Khasbulatov] Yes, yes, yes!

[Poptsov] When they were asked the perhaps somewhat provocative question [words indistinct].

[Khasbulatov] Yes.

[Poptsov] They exclaimed in unison.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, yes, yes. That's right. As I say, are we not moving toward military communism? I do not consider that all our actions—both of parliament and of government—and I want to say, by the way, that I have no intention at all of exaggerating in any way the contribution of parliament or the constructive role of parliament. I consider that we bear responsibility in equal measure for the slumps and deteriorations in the general material and economic situation. I think we have not adequately....

[Poptsov, interrupting] Ruslan Imranovich, in the situation we were in before the sixth congress, I think if we reason sensibly both the leadership of parliament and the president regarded as an indisputable victory the signing of the federative treaty. In this connection I would like to ask you a question which worries us personally. We have information that certain things are not just happening by chance. This was mentioned today also—the finance minister even said it—that the federal treasury is refusing to pay the oblasts.

[Khasbulatov] Krays.

[Poptsov] Republics and krays. In this connection are you not concerned about the process that has begun especially strongly in Siberia?

[Khasbulatov] It has always worried me. You know, these processes began back in 1990. We were actively concerning ourselves with these processes and achieving success in many respects. We did succeed on the eve of the sixth congress in concluding a number of treaties forming the basis for the federative treaty which has become part of our Constitution. Many people just considered automatically that separatism is a feature only of the republics, and would not listen when we said that in the national republics these are forms of separatism, but in other regions they are forms of regionalism. Everywhere in the world regionalism exists. I have been concerned for a long time, for a quarter of a century, with regionalism , such as Canadian regionalism and so on. In proportion to the worsening economic situation and in line with the failures of economic reform, you get an acceleration of precisely this process of regionalism. Each region....

[Poptsov, interrupting] Cherishes the illusion that it will emerge separately later.

[Khasbulatov] We really think of them in this way, that there at the center they know nothing. We do perhaps, by being infantile and ill-informed at times about affairs, actually create this illusion, this feeling, on the part of the local authorities, that we do not care about the fate of those regions. They try to withdraw somehow. Hence the extreme negative actions such as refusal to pay the appropriate taxes into the federal treasury. Indeed, we incite those regions. We incite them ourselves.

This harsh, excessively harsh taxation policy, has to a great extent pushed people toward separatism and regionalism in the republics, oblasts, and krays, when in practice there has been a headlong fall and slump in industrial output and hundreds of enterprises are coming to a standstill, including privatized enterprises and those producing fine goods, for instance the garment factories. Surely we need garment factories. Is it the case then that we in this country have enough shirts, suits, men's and women's coats, and so on? Privatized and excellent collectives working 18 hours a day are coming to a standstill. This is because no one is buying from them, and the reason no one is buying from them is that a shirt costs 5,000 rubles. That is the effect of value-added tax. When local authorities see this state of affairs, it is out of despair that they make these decisions at times. It is not through a predisposition on their part to put a spoke in the wheels of the federal state authorities, but at times they are forced to act in this way out of desperation.

[Poptsov] Ruslan Imranovich, you are an economist and are aware that in this situation, to construct a budget based on principles and tasks that you yourself have said are sensible—not a deficit-free budget but a budget with a minimum deficit—is very difficult.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, of course.

[Poptsov] The government had no other course.

[Khasbulatov] You know that we have already spoken about this, and I do not want to repeat myself. I think that we might have avoided this suffering and this deterioration in people's situations if right at the outset we had set about acting in a coordinated way without one person thinking he is cleverer than everyone else, and by taking account of specific realities. Nor was it necessary for us to look so far afield at overseas models of development, which do not always work even in their local conditions. It was not necessary to mislead society by saying that we would obtain billions and billions there, when you and I know full well that no entrepreneur will invest a single dollar unless he sees a tangible benefit. Now, almost a year after the start of all these experiments, it can finally be said that we—and I say we but do not really want to say we—that certain people are already beginning to learn something. This is why parliament has to act like a school and an educator. Surely, one thinks, we could in the final analysis find specialists in our country that would not need to be taught but would know about production. When are we going to get to conditions where we will not accept students as professors and production experts? We have to conduct experiments for many months on 155 million inhabitants in order to understand something!

[Loginov] Ruslan Imranovich, I fail to understand one point from the point of view of common sense. Look, we have a deadlock here. It does not make sense to produce anything at all in this country. Whatever you produce, you will either find it impossible to sell it, since everywhere....

[Khasbulatov, interrupting] Or find it impossible to produce....

[Logunov, interrupting] It does not make sense to produce absolutely anything.

[Khasbulatov] No, it does not make sense.

[Logunov] Here is the deadlock. Is there some way out of this deadlock situation? What should be done to start production flowing? It is not worth it to produce absolutely anything—electricity, coal, or oil. Everyone is complaining. Look at airplanes—it is not worth it to build them, and the same goes for newspapers.

[Khasbulatov] Nothing is worth producing.

[Logunov] Nothing, absolutely nothing is worth producing.

[Khasbulatov] Of course, it is not worth producing.

[Logunov] Where is the way out of this deadlock?

[Khasbulatov] The way out is to talk less about the market, market, and market. The more we talk about the market, the more it shrinks and the smaller it becomes. When there is a market system, when there is competition, it makes sense to produce something. Why? Because you have a customer. Moreover, all kinds of customers with various amounts of purchasing ability. As for us, everything is very expensive and costs much more than any human being can afford. This has lead to the so-called liberalization. This is just one side of the matter. Instead of liberalization, incentives should have been given to people to produce more. How are they created, these incentives? They are created when you create conditions advantageous to the producer. What do we do here? We do just the opposite. Therefore, we end up having this stifling taxation system when everything is taken away.

Look at this from another angle. What is happening to foreign enterprises, foreign entrepreneurs? They are cutting back their presence here. I personally receive many letters from various entrepreneurs who tell me they fail to see any sense. Bureaucracy,, plus these odd conditions, plus political instability, plus tax volumes which have increased immensely—all this literally makes them poor. This entire campaign against the parliament was unleashed already in January when I dared to raise the issue the following way: We adopted incredible laws on the value-added tax in November and December. Since

things were not proceeding in the right direction, I said: Let's introduce some cuts. As soon as we raised the issue in the parliament, we were immediately attacked by this campaign against the parliament, a well-organized campaign planned very well by some experts there, as you know. This was just because the Russian parliament demanded that taxes be cut.

[Poptsov] If one is to be honest, Ruslan Imranovich, I can testify to the fact that dissatisfaction with Russian television in government circles is very active and that every little thing annoys. The government has a critical approach to everything and defines everything in the following way: Why do you have to show the seamy side of life all the time? There is a very big problem here. The point is that at the time, since reforms produce no results, the absence of a result turns into the opposition to reforms.

[Khasbulatov] Of course, the absence of a result. You are absolutely right.

[Poptsov] There is nothing you can do about it. This is opposition to reforms.

[Khasbulatov] And people's dissatisfaction, when it becomes so powerful, naturally, this is a very serious factor already, which just goes to show the bankruptcy of certain decisions. So, one must not persist in being obstinate, as sometimes happens, but somehow seek solutions. But how does it happen with us? Well, you remember it was recently said that prices would increase three-and-a-half to fourfold. That was all. Now they have increased 16 fold. Now, again the same people are saying, listen, it is as we said it would be. That is, for them it is all the same—threefold, fourfold, or 16-fold. But, pardon me, this is the bankruptcy of your whole policy, for that matter.

[Poptsov] Ruslan Imranovich, yesterday, at his meeting with newspaper editors and heads of the media, the president said: I think that the president should return to parliament. That is, he spoke of his desire to hold a session of the Constitutional Commission to talk about this. It seems to me that this is a revealing point, that, to coin a phrase, there is a lot of materialization of concepts and concord, without which—this interface of these authorities—there will be no end-product.

[Khasbulatov] Of course. This is natural. After all, if today I talk critically, I repeat once more, I am after all criticizing ourselves as well; and our parliament always. I don't consider that these faults are characteristic of only, let's say, the government. You see, the law demands that we carry out monitoring and introduce amendments. Is that not so? We should not—I want to repeat this thought—we should not assume the pose of insulted people who are not listened to, and so forth. The same average citizen, voter, is within his rights to say, well, where are you, as the parliament? Well, as far as interaction is concerned, of course, with the president, I can say that I have always had absolutely fine relations with the president. And in the period since the congress we have somehow become...[changes thought] I suppose life has forced the parliament, the president, and the government to seek support from each other. Of course, I will continue to act together with the president.

[Logunov] Will it be a long, hot summer, Ruslan Imranovich, or a cool one?

[Khasbulatov] I don't see any grounds, first, for it to be cool, but at the same time, I can't say that there are any preconditions that it should be excessively hot. I am a sort of moderate and cautious optimist in this sense. I don't see any grounds for asserting that we should be apprehensive of any shocks, any coups, either from the left or the right, and so forth. Although, you will recall that before the August coup, I kept on claiming, since 1990, that such cataclysms were not inherent in the Russian soil, and they are not characteristic of our way of life and our power structure. Well, during that period I was mistaken, but nonetheless I assert that there are no grounds for assuming that we will enter some kind of collapse, which...[changes thought] It is possible that someone is attempting to conceal forces, by some kind of coercive methods. I think that the summer will pass more or less calmly. But I am, of course, very concerned about issues connected with the harvest.

[Logunov] They won't sell the bread grain, Ruslan Imranovich!

[Khasbulatov] You know, it seems to me that our efforts, nevertheless, are not sufficient. I would take this opportunity to draw the attention of our deputies at all levels, beginning at the rural, village level; I would draw the attention of representatives of the administrations, of enterprises, of all of our people, to the fact that, of course, in the literal sense, it is possible to provide, it is possible to ensure, that not a single ear of grain remains in the field, that the whole harvest is gathered, and, moreover, in such a fashion that it does not sit around at some temporary stopover or at some temporary storehouse. Storing it would of course be a huge [word indistinct] and selling it as well, it must be sold. I would draw the attention of our fellow citizens to this problem and would call on undergraduates and pupils in the higher classes and students at various establishments of ours to assist in preserving the harvest.

[Poptsov] Ruslan Imranovich, speaking about the session that has finished, no one would understand if we did not touch on the mass media, since there was of course a huge commotion. It was not without the participation of the mass media, but let us be honest, not without the participation of the parliament either. Well, I wonder, and I am rather perplexed about this: Ruslan Khasbulatov was for many years, until he became head of parliament, an integral part of the mass media—he wrote a lot and he worked as a journalist. And I thought that his very understanding of this category of people, of their conduct, and their thoughts should be very much inherent, very much inherent. I cannot say that you are without sensitivity. Honestly, man to man, this is clear.

Nevertheless, you have said this many times, and I would like to say that parliament should understand how much it has to lose from this conflict, just as, incidentally, the press should also understand how much it stands to lose from a conflict with the parliament. How do you see the prospects, what do you see as ideal relations between the mass media and the parliament as such, and you personally as its head? Ideal, for you....

[Khasbulatov] These ideal mutual relations are probably impossible. As you know, there is no such thing in families either. Therefore, it is natural that they do not happen in any society. Some contradictions must exist. What kind of relations could be expected here? It seems to me that Minister Poltoranin proposed the right way out. You see, some people, including me, kept convincing the parliament that it was necessary to adopt a very democratic law on the mass media, do you remember? Adopting it, we thought that we would indeed remove journalists' fetters and have ideal relations, and that they would thank us. What really happened is that they actually used this weapon against the parliament, the parliament that had just granted freedom to them. This is how I see the situation.

[Poptsov] That is probably natural, Ruslan Imranovich.

[Khasbulatov] It is natural. It is natural because, first, our society possesses a kind of absolutely autocratic thinking. Very often, if you look deep into the most convinced democrat, you will find there the supporter of a kind of neo-totalitarian autocratic thinking. There is no doubt about this. There are no traditions, no experience, no understanding of democracy.

In addition to all this, in these difficult conditions, the newspapers, having lost this powerful state or party protection, found themselves at this time of constant price rises and deterioration of the economic situation at a crossroads—where to go now? And here, some crafty figures from the highest echelons of executive power started to attract them with all kinds of bribes. Other newspapers joined unscrupulous, to put it bluntly, dealers in the shadow economy. It is natural that both sides have their claims on parliament, some scores to settle with the parliament, which shows that it is the parliament of a real and powerful political force. They both would like very much to sting the parliament. Certain bodies, some of our newspapers, some of our speakers, and also some editorial offices, television, radio, and so on, have gone to serve these not very honest and pure ideas. This is obvious. Of course, the law proposed by the minister of press should have been adopted today. We have already some experience here. You see, it is necessary to assign...

[Poptsov] Mutual responsibility.

[Khasbulatov] Mutual responsibility, absolutely true. As for this law, it should have been adopted. But our democrats, or to be more precise, deputies from the left, so to speak, failed to understand what it was all about and started to protest. The same way as the others also failed to see the point. Some think about defending the newspaper DEN, for example, and the others intend to defend NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA or some other newspaper, right?

[Poptsov] By the way, if we had adopted the law, there would be no point in examining the issue on the mass media.

[Khasbulatov] Of course, of course. That is why we put this issue as number one on the agenda, in order to examine it first, since it was to be the main issue. You see, every deputy judged the matter from his own positions: Now, let's see, if this law is adopted, my favorite newspaper will suffer. And the other deputy thinks that if this article is adopted, what about my favorite newspaper? This quality in the deputy is absolutely unthinkable. The deputy must think in terms of the state and not speak from positions of his own personal partiality. The interesting thing is that they all united in defending their little interests, defending them from different positions—on the one hand, defenders of DEN and GLASNOST, and on the other, defenders of the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS and IZVESTIYA, let us say. This was very interesting; I even laughed.

Each one was thinking about defending his own newspaper. You see, it was surprising how the overwhelming majority of deputies spoke out against this draft law.

[Poptsov] Yes, unfortunately that is so.

[Khasbulatov] So, there it is. It means that one still has to work very seriously. And you see there would be no need for it if we had adopted the relevant clauses for the criminal and criminal procedure code, for the code on disciplinary liability—that is, there are specific things. A journalist set about it, insulted someone undeservedly, wrote something incorrect, spoke out against parliament, spoke out against a deputy here, spoke out against some kind of officials there. If he does that in passing now, you see how it is, literally mocking officials, starting with the president, not to mention your humble servant. I have become used to that and don't take any notice of it in general, and it is not worth talking about.

[Poptsov] Of course, you take notice...

[Khasbulatov] No.

[Poptsov] [Passage indistinct] if you didn't take any notice.

[Khasbulatov] You say that mistakenly talking about my heightened...

[Poptsov, interrupting] Not heightened. I simply said being offended.

[Khasbulatov] No, you know, I got over that long ago. On the contrary, I think that it somehow promotes a heightening...

[Poptsov, interrupting] Of immunity...

[Khasbulatov] A heightening of attention probably paid to my modest person. So, if we were able to adopt these very serious new items today—articles in the criminal code, in the administrative code—naturally one would in general be able to leave it as it is. You journalists would be more careful. There is no need to joke with the law, no need. You know, we shall get to it.

[Logunov] Ruslan Imranovich is interested in it.

[Khasbulatov] I know, but...

[Logunov] Ruslan Imranovich is interested in adopting this law, probably as a journalist.

[Khasbulatov] Yes, naturally, as a journalist. I am interested in it as a professional. Who is not interested in it? Those who are after sensations, casual people, shallow people—and incidentally there are very many of them, in my opinion, in journalism at the present time. People who can do a bit of something. But professional journalists need precise laws, setting stipulations, their possibilities, so to speak, for working, in order not to violate...

[Poptsov, interrupting] Ruslan Imranovich, are you preparing to go on vacation?
[Khasbulatov] Yes, I am trying to go.

[Poptsov] I would like to ask you a question. How do you spend your vacation? What will you do on your vacation?
[Khasbulatov] I shall write a book.

[Poptsov] Write a book?
[Khasbulatov] Well, I have already spoken about that.

[Poptsov] Is it a textbook?
[Khasbulatov] Yes, a two-volume one on which I'm working.

[Poptsov] A new edition.
[Khasbulatov] Yes, a new edition.

[Poptsov] But, besides writing...?
[Khasbulatov] Yet another book

[Poptsov] [Passage indistinct]
[Khasbulatov] Which is called *Power*.

[Logunov] Will you go fishing, Ruslan Imranovich?
[Khasbulatov] I shall try to, if I can manage it, of course.

[Poptsov] I would like to thank you for this conversation, and naturally I would like to wish you a good vacation. Today, you uttered such correct and somewhat terrible words at the presidium about six feet of dirt, but that is correct. It is correct. Philosophically it is just, that in the end for each of us, the end is the same.

[Khasbulatov] And one should behave...

[Poptsov, interrupting] And one should think that every day is a day of one's life.

[Khasbulatov] Therefore, one should behave in an honest way. I would like to remind people that life is indeed too short to act with guile, to play, all the more so with the fates of other people. It seems to me that one should strive to be honest in politics as well.

[Poptsov] We would like to wish you a good vacation, and for all that, when you sit down at your book, to remember that Ruslan Khasbulatov is a journalist, and he, like no one else, should be aware that journalists are people too.

[Khasbulatov] Well, naturally. How else? It would be good if journalists would also remembered that.

[Poptsov] Thank you very much.

[Khasbulatov] Thank you, thank you. I wish success and happiness to our fatherland, to our fellow citizens. Thank you. Good-bye.

Decree on Privatization Checks Issued

LD2007193592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] All citizens of Russia will be able, free of charge, to become the owners of part of the state's property as early as this year. Judging by the government's resolution of 15 July, received by ITAR-TASS today, the plan for the introduction of a privatization checks system has been approved. A list of citizens having the right to receive privatization checks will be drawn up by 1 September and the locations for centers to issue these checks will be assigned by 15 September.

Media Issues

IZVESTIYA Alleges Vote 'Crudely Rigged'

PM2007170192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Yuriy Orlik: "The Vote on IZVESTIYA in Parliament Accompanied by Most Flagrant Violations of Standing Orders"]

[Text] On Friday evening, when the next day's issue of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA was already ready for delivery, the editorial office received a telephone call from the newspaper's correspondent Sergey Sokolov at the White House, asking for the following addition to be carried with the report on the Russian parliament's discussion of the IZVESTIYA question.

"At the last minute the editorial office received from reliable sources copies of the results of the vote on the resolution on IZVESTIYA. It emerges from the document that Sergey Shakhray and Oleg Rumyantsev, who did not attend the session, voted in favor of the resolution. No further comment is needed."

At this juncture the correspondent said that he had in his hands a record of the numerical vote, which was the reason for his making this sensational announcement.

Today IZVESTIYA has a photocopy of this three-page document.

It lists in alphabetical order all parliamentary deputies. Next to each of their names is one of the following symbols—a plus, a minus, a zero, or a star. This indicates respectively whether they voted in favor or against, whether they abstained, or were absent during the vote. There are crosses next to the names of Sergey Shakhray and Oleg Rumyantsev although neither of them attended the session.

It can be assumed that the results of the vote have been crudely rigged. Although the following scenario is more feasible: The name cards with which people vote in parliament were given to other people and they used them contrary to their owners' wishes.

We have learned that Aleksey Adrov had Sergey Shakhray's card and that he in turn gave it to a member of the Supreme Soviet. But Adrov himself says that he does not know whether this person attended the session and he has therefore asked for his name not to be made public at present.

Of course, giving another person the "right to vote" is a breach of parliamentary regulations. This must be investigated by the Commission for Standing Orders and Ethics. But one thing is beyond doubt: The results of the IZVESTIYA vote that have been published do not reflect the real correlation of forces in the parliament and do not provide a real picture of the opinions held.

Aleksey Adrov said during a telephone conversation that he had just met Deputy Sheynis, who had learned from the computer printout of the ballot results that he had abstained (there is a zero against his name), although on the day that the question of the mass media was discussed he was on a business trip.

According to Adrov, Deputy Sheynis said that he intends to ask Parliament Speaker R. Khasbulatov to investigate the entire saga of the vote deciding the fate of IZVESTIYA, a saga which is strange to say the least.

IZVESTIYA Editor on Supreme Soviet Move

LD1907172692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Late on the evening of 17 July Russian Supreme Soviet deputies adopted by a majority of votes a resolution according to which IZVESTIYA becomes the newspaper of the Russian parliament. The Press Ministry and the Justice Ministry are instructed to register this publication accordingly, taking into consideration, I quote, serious violations in the course of the registration of IZVESTIYA in August 1991.

How legal is this decision? We telephoned Igor Golembiovskiy, who is IZVESTIYA's editor in chief, and asked for his comments on the recent developments:

[Begin Golembiovskiy recording] This decision contravenes the law, because the status of a newspaper can be changed only by one body—the founders alone; in other words, the journalistic collective of IZVESTIYA, which has no intention of doing so. The agency in which it was registered is the Press Ministry. I spoke to Minister Poltoranin yesterday. He does not intend to change registration. One other level of authority is the court. The Supreme Soviet has thus assumed the prerogatives of the judicial authorities. If the Supreme Soviet insists on this decision, it will have to go to court.

But the matter involves not only IZVESTIYA. The parliament did take time to discuss at length the resolution on the mass media, which had as its main focus councils of observers for television and radio. Knowing the president's attitude on this resolution, on the fact that the parliament is going to make short work of IZVESTIYA, Khasbulatov decided to sacrifice this resolution to a degree, and offered to withdraw the clause on councils of observers, saying that they would emerge all the same when a law on television and radio is adopted. He essentially postponed the introduction of Supreme Soviet censorship by several months. There were also references to the Western experience, but it was not mentioned anywhere that councils of observers in the West do not deal with the contents and creative work of either radio or television. All they do is control the finances which are used by this or that radio station or company. Therefore, I think that this is merely the first stage of an attack against the mass media. [end recording]

IZVESTIYA Deplores Supreme Soviet Vote

PM2007163192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

["Editorial Viewpoint" article: "IZVESTIYA Is Prepared To Obey the Law, But Not a Legislator's Whim"]

[Text] On Friday evening the Russian parliament adopted a resolution on our newspaper. The first point orders that henceforth IZVESTIYA is to be considered IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII. Even if the editorial collegium wanted to carry out this injunction, it could not do so without violating a law adopted by the same parliament.

According to the Law on the Press only the newspaper's founder (in this case the newspaper's journalist collective), the organ that registered the publication in the event of a violation of the registration procedure, or a court, after considering the relevant action if one is brought, have the right to change the status of the newspaper, that is rename it, which is what the resolution is demanding.

None of the above grounds for changing the newspaper's status exists.

By the way, in August 1991 nobody thought of objecting to the reregistration of the newspaper, including its then founder. During the debates on Friday the idea was voiced of restitution, that is, of returning to the point of departure in the argument. Then our newspaper would have to be called IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV SSSR. There may be some pedantic logic in that. But it is so obviously absurd that this suggestion was not taken into account. In renouncing the ridiculous, an illegal resolution was adopted.

It would be wrong to confine ourselves merely to noting this fact and to saying that it is impossible to implement an illegal resolution. This resolution did not emerge from the quiet of a bureaucrat's office, but quite democratically, through an open ballot. This last factor should particularly disquiet voters.

Some deputies and the parliament as a whole may well come into conflict with a newspaper, the government, a party faction, or a public movement; one chamber may even come into conflict with the other. That is all within the bounds and norms of democracy.

But when a legislator enters into conflict with a law that he himself has adopted, when the legislative branch refuses to heed the law, that is evidence of a serious crisis of democratic statehood.

And such a crisis has clearly emerged behind the private conflict between parliament's speaker, and some of the deputies who support him, and the newspaper. During the debate on IZVESTIYA sensible deputies repeatedly insistently asked their colleagues not to encroach on the prerogatives of another branch of state power, but to refer this case to the courts, which alone are entitled to settle the matter. It was no longer a question of IZVESTIYA, but of the limits (or lack of limits) to parliament's power under a democratic regime. Regrettably, parliamentarians voted by a majority to reject the rule-of-law path.

The mass media have frequently reproached Russian parliamentary deputies for their ignorance of the basics of democracy and statehood. This is a serious but nonetheless superficial charge. Russian deputies, particularly R. Khasbulatov, are perfectly well aware of everything. But they cannot give up the following principle: Since we are the authorities, we can do anything. The Union parliament could not overcome this stereotypical thinking, and Russian people's deputies have been unable to do this either.

One final point. Many deputies see the invention of more and more draft laws protecting people's representatives from criticism, along with aggressive acts and actions on their own part, as a means of maintaining their own prestige. But is it not time for Russian parliamentarians to realize that they are barking up the wrong tree? That the surest support and most reliable protection for constitutional organs of power are independent courts, a free press, and precise implementation of the laws that are adopted?

Legality of IZVESTIYA Resolution Questioned

PM2107104592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jul 92 p 1

[Article by parliamentary observer L. Nikitinskiy: "Never Mind the Fourth Estate...Let's Interfere! Russia's Ministry of Press and Information Ready To Appeal to the Constitutional Court Against the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Resolution on IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] We were too hasty in burying Marxism ahead of time: Property relations indeed explain a lot, including the correlation of truth and lies in the market for information and opinions.

When the property inherited from the USSR was redistributed, it all ended up in the hands of the first and second estates, the third ended up with almost nothing, and the fourth with absolutely nothing. In this regard the press, whose contribution to "perestroyka" was hardly less than that made by politicians, ended up the least detached from the people, having remained—like the bulk of the population—among the have-nots.

The crazy prices for newsprint, printing services, and distribution costs bled the newspapers dry, undermined their immunity, and now they can be seized effortlessly— the larger the newspaper the easier this is, seeing that it incurs greater losses. True enough, live newsmen are needed in addition to the newspapers but, having concentrated money and the means of production in its own hands, the power that be will manage to get them on its side.

In its conflict with IZVESTIYA, Russia's Supreme Soviet has demonstrated what can be done to the have-nots by the owners of property. The decision adopted here last Friday [17 July] means that the Supreme Soviet simply showed the door to IZVESTIYA's journalists, demanding that they vacate the printing capacities in favor of those who would agree to behave more obligingly. And even though on Friday the Supreme Soviet promised, in its general resolution on the mass media, "to demonopolize printing facilities" allowing for "equal participation by editorial office collectives," it is really difficult to believe in an honest privatization of the press following the treatment meted to IZVESTIYA immediately afterward.

The majority in the Supreme Soviet would hardly give up the "legitimate" opportunity to shut up its critics for the simple reason that it itself is getting increasingly bogged down in lies. As a matter of fact, here is the first ensuing lie which ought to be immediately examined: The newspapers are allegedly against democracy and parliamentarianism in principle. Certainly not: They are

only against the "parliamentarianism" demonstrated yet again by this specific Supreme Soviet.

It is possible to spend a long time debating why the people's deputies, who were Russia's pride until very recently, have embarked on a compromise with lies. It is, however, a fact that they refused to examine the actions by the Supreme Soviet chairman whose guilt was repeatedly exposed by the mass media: By MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI as regards insulting the government in his interview with LA REPUBBLICA; by television for lying to the Congress of People's Deputies as regards the aforementioned interview; by IZVESTIYA for involvement in the illegal expulsion of Chechens from Moscow's hotels, during which they were beaten up; by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA for traveling at state expense in a special state airplane to Italy for the publication of his personal memoirs there; by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA for the acquisition of a luxury apartment, which was legally dubious from the viewpoint of housing legislation.

Each one of these charges could have been disputed by Khasbulatov in court, but this was not done. Consequently, any one of these precedents in a rule-of-law state could and should have become the topic of a special parliamentary investigation. Instead, parliament decided to tackle the mass media. But any lie which is not promptly rebutted inevitably leads to another.

Any attempt to depict the course of the parliamentary hearings of the IZVESTIYA question as a strictly legal matter lacking all political overtones is an attempt to confuse public opinion. The urgent need to resolve this question actually on the last day of the session—the explanation given to deputies was that the one-year period of limitation would run out on 28 August (the date of IZVESTIYA's registration)—is nothing but juggling with facts, because this period of limitation applies only to the court, where parliament refused to present its case; moreover, it should run from December, when Russia's Supreme Soviet inherited the legal rights to the USSR Supreme Soviet's newspaper, if it inherited them at all.

A false charge of seizing state property has been leveled against journalists, and an improper procedure was used to reinstate the item on the session's agenda at the last moment, whereas just the day before the Supreme Soviet leadership was assuring the newspaper's collective that it had been removed from the agenda. A scandal has developed over the result of the vote: The electronic equipment has "recorded" votes by deputies who were absent from the sitting.

A resolution lacking even a semblance of legality has thus come into being. Whereas the draft which was being elaborated in contravention of standing orders behind the back of the leading parliamentary committee still followed its own logic in offering the creation of a second newspaper to counterbalance the existing one, the decision adopted with Khasbulatov's casting vote imposes on the existing editorial board some unspecified "soviets of people's deputies" as founders and mentors—making it perfectly obvious that the Supreme Soviet Presidium intends to act through them—and this is absolutely impossible to achieve against the will of the newspaper's staffers.

Will IZVESTIYA's rout bring political success to those who conceived and executed it? Only subject to one condition: The launched offensive against freedom of speech must be brought to its logical conclusion and all mouths must be gagged. After all, the argument that the Supreme Soviet and its leaders actually and properly reflect Russian public opinion today is also a lie.

Of course, newspapers do shape public opinion to a certain extent but, being more closely dependent on their subscribers than the people's deputies who were elected en bloc and, as practice shows, cannot be replaced until the next elections, they are actually guided by public opinion. If we were to add up the print run of all traditionally "left-wing" newspapers, which are so frankly detested by those elected by the people, headed by the deputy from Chechnya; if we were to work out the proportion of public opinion represented by their readers' opinions, the following question arises: On whose vote are the deputies, who settled accounts with IZVESTIYA, counting?

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Gives Statement

PM2007160392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 92 First Edition p 1

[Statement by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Editorial Collegium: "Freedom of Speech: Rights and Responsibilities"; appended editorial note reads "Through the fault of an editorial office staffer, an incomplete text of the Editorial Collegium's statement 'Freedom of Speech: Rights and Responsibilities' was published, misrepresenting the Collegium's stance. We therefore publish the full text of this document."—additions to 18 July version, published on page 34 of the 20 July Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, printed in italics; other variations as indicated]

[Text] The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial collegium held a session at which it examined the question of the newspaper's position in connection with the debate on the mass media that has flared up recently. This was prompted, in particular, by the confrontation between the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—our newspaper is one of its publications—and several of the mass media, first and foremost the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

It is well known that relations between parliament and the mass media deteriorated on the eve of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies and during the Congress' work. At that time in certain newspapers and television programs the Congress, the Supreme Soviet and its chairman, and the representative authorities in general were subjected not merely to criticism, which

would have been understandable and useful, but to obstruction. Several of the mass media, playing on the controversies between parliament and the government, artificially exaggerated the differences between their views of the reforms that are proceeding with difficulty in Russia and exacerbated the confrontation between the authorities.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA did not support this stance on the part of its colleagues. We did not do this on the grounds that we belong to the Supreme Soviet, as is sometimes suggested; it was out of a sense of responsibility for preserving political stability in the country. We acted on the basis that any democratic transformations in Russia, with its genetic capacity for ending up with a "little father"-czar or a tyrant, will run aground if there is any disruption of the balance of powers—legislative, executive, and judicial. We also acted on the basis that neither the legislative, nor the executive, nor the judicial powers were fully realizing their potential or exercising their powers, so that there was no need to set them against each other. Moreover, we acted on the basis that an increase in confrontation between the president (and government) and the Supreme Soviet is in the interests of ambitious or simply dishonorable politicians, and naturally we did not want to be exploited for unseemly purposes.

In the spring of this year, that is, during the Congress, in the course of condemnation [18 July version had "in the course of an all-out condemnation"] of the representative power, there were only a few voices trying to come to its defense, and thus—we are convinced of this—to the defense of democracy. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's voice was among them.

But what twists and turns history takes! We were almost the only opposition newspaper to defend the new Russian leadership from the very first days of its own existence. Our colleagues must remember that time, and they must remember how some of us behaved then. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA was one of the few to wholeheartedly support and promote the election victory of the first Russian president, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. Last August, along with many others (but not all), we were on the list of banned newspapers.

And now they are once again trying to make out that we are an opposition newspaper, no less! Opposition to whom?! To the course of progressive democratic transformations? *Even stronger expressions are used: "Hostile." And these names are conferred on us merely because we remain true to the original intention cherished by democratic forces, from which our democracy springs: the principle of three-part equal powers.*

Naturally, we do not idealize parliament. It has many faces. There are terrible faces and comic faces. But let us not forget that it was this Congress that elected an outcast from the party and the center to be chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. It was this Congress that recommended him and helped him to become president. It was this Congress that renewed the Constitution and adopted laws making it possible to implement profound political and economic reforms. It was this Congress that voluntarily handed over many of its own functions to the president in order to strengthen the executive power and untie its hands.

We do not idealize the government or the president. The reforms are marked by difficulties, conflicts, and inflexibility, and in our view many mistakes and miscalculations are being made. The young government, or rather some of its members, especially in the first months, turned parliament against them because of some provocative actions on their part. We were distressed to see yesterday's comrades in arms, to the delight of the opponents of reform, not engaging in harmonious work but wrangling over who has what rights and who is most important. In its reporting ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA tried to bring it to the attention of the participants in the reforms that only the balance of power and reasonable consensus among them will ensure society's democratic development.

That was our stance, and it is still the same.

Now for a more detailed examination of the causes and mainsprings of the conflict as seen and assessed by us, the members of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial collegium.

When someone's work is on show from morning to night, under the keen eye of the close-up lens, when that difficult work requires strong mental and spiritual effort, then the task of those who report it and show it on screen is, in our view, to show and report it objectively. Not to pick out individual cases, blunders, or emotional outbursts, but to convey to society the essence of what is happening. This is necessary, in our opinion, not in order to hide anything. If you put the emphasis on weaknesses and hitches, this has a depressing effect on anyone. Why stir up trouble and play on taut psychological strings? After all, the main result of parliament's activity is laws. And it would be logical to analyze a particular law, its strong and weak points, and whether it "works" for the reforms or holds them back. Thorough, professional analysis is the very thing that is patently lacking in the newspapers, ours included. Yet any "hot" news is immediately put on the front page. Of course, this annoys deputies, they regard this attitude to them as unjust. And in human terms, you can understand that.

So let us not gloat, let us be more caring toward one another.

We think that it is caring and comprehension of parliament's difficult work that certain newspapers lack. This is what provoked the conflict, which is totally unnecessary and even dangerous to society.

There are people in parliament who were glad to take advantage of the conflict that broke out in order to lean on the press: some on the "right-wing" press, others on the "left-wing." All these "supervisory councils," even if you put a gilded frame round them, mean only one thing:

the rebirth of censorship. We are convinced that journalists, or at least the majority of them, will never agree to such restrictions on freedom of speech. And if anyone tries to impose restrictions not stipulated by the law, it will mean the end of his political career.

A brief word about IZVESTIYA.... It would be madness to try to "close" that newspaper. IZVESTIYA has a rich and glorious past and will, we hope, have an equally significant future. In our view, the only question mark is over the fact that IZVESTIYA has put itself in special, privileged conditions. The newspaper, in effect, owns a state enterprise (a printing plant, a huge garage, premises, leisure homes, and so forth), and this safeguards its financial position, which differs radically from other editorial offices. All the other newspapers are in the relationship of clients to the publishing houses, and pay for the lease of premises, printing services, transport, communications, and dispatch. It is the unlawful link [18 July version had "It is this link"] between IZVESTIYA and the publishing house that enabled a private newspaper—as IZVESTIYA became after its reregistration—to make use of state property free of charge and make a profit in the interests of private individuals.

So our colleagues have no reason to get indignant and make a fuss. And is it honorable to take advantage of your unhampered ability to address society daily, in order to mislead it? Until the last moment IZVESTIYA concealed the fact that it had been allocated a subsidy in excess of 50 million rubles, although it was only too happy to write at length about similar assistance to other newspapers.

Freedom of speech is one of the substantial gains of democratic Russia. Let us journalists use the freedom we have gained for honorable purposes. *And, of course, everyone should use this freedom on equal terms.*

[Signed] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Editorial Collegium

PRAVDA Decries Poor Access to Information

PM2007140192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Viktor Kozhemyako under the rubric "Press as Reflected in Politics": "Journalists Barred Entry"]

[Text] No newspaper can live without news—for the reader first and foremost expects news from the press. There is a problem, however: It is sometimes very difficult for a journalist to obtain the information he needs, especially in power structures. We continually ran up against this during the time of the partycrats, but even now under the democrats things have not improved, and in some respects they have even markedly deteriorated. Evidence? PRAVDA journalists come across it at literally every step.

For example, our readers have more than once expressed the wish that the newspaper disclose what it costs to maintain the presidential administration and the Russian Federation Government's apparatus. You will agree that this interest is not an idle one: After all, our authorities are maintained at the expense of taxpayers, that is, of millions of ordinary citizens. Alas, we have simply not been able so far to satisfy their legitimate interest, for our correspondent, despite all the efforts he has made, has not received a reply to his many inquiries about this.

Another correspondent fought for a long time to obtain a commentary on burning questions of the economy and workers' lives from one of the vice premiers in the Russian Government. He tried to reach several of them—to no avail. Some said they did not have enough time, vigilant aides and secretaries did not let us under any circumstances see others, totally blocking communication even using the government scrambler telephone. And so we often find out about our country's problems and events which are happening here from the interviews which the very same vice premiers willingly give to foreign newspapers.

To all appearances, foreign journalists here have in general recently been granted most favored status (leaving aside the fact that in some quarters, like the Russia Prosecutor's Office, for instance, they have begun to be charged hard foreign currency for information provided). We also, of course, regard our colleagues from other countries with respect and deference, but we would like not to come in last place in our own country. But the Russian president conducts a press conference before his trip to Germany and Finland and only invites representatives of newspapers from these countries on it. But surely such a meeting is no less interesting to other publications from our country?

The Russian Federation law on the mass media says: "The search for, receipt, production, and dissemination of news for popular consumption... is not subject to restrictions except where stipulated by the Russian Federation legislation on the mass media."

It also says: "State bodies and organizations, public associations, and their officials provide information about their activities to the mass media when editorial offices make inquiries, and also by conducting press conferences, sending out information and statistical materials, and in other forms."

That is absolutely clear. So once again, does the law not apply to everyone?

Journalists Union Condemns Media Decision

LD2007154492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The Presidium of the Moscow Union of Journalists (MUJ) made a statement on Monday denouncing the Russian parliament's plans to establish tough control over the mass media.

"The planned dictatorship over the mass media, the attempt to control the newspaper "IZVESTIYA" once again indicate a negative attitude towards freedom of the press, openness, and journalistic honesty," the statement said.

The presidium of the MUJ supported Boris Yeltsin's statement in defence of the freedom of the mass media and against any infringements on this freedom.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Foreign Minister Tenders Resignation

LD2107090992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Chechen Foreign Minister Shamil Beno has again tendered his resignation. He gives the reason for his intention as his desire to serve the people in unofficial structures. The deputy ministers of foreign affairs resigned earlier, some of them leveling sharp criticism of General Dudayev. It is noted in Groznyy that the new resignation announcement by the foreign affairs minister intensifies the crisis in the executive power of Chechenia and its conflict with parliament. The parliament is demanding the resignation of General Dudayev from the post of head of government and the disbandment of his personal security service.

Sakhalin Officials Warn of Social Tension

LD2007152292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The SIB-VEST news agency reports that on 20 July, Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov and oblast soviet chairman Anatoliy Aksenov sent a telegram to Russian President Yeltsin. It says: Rash government decisions on economic reform have created extreme social tensions in the oblast that are near explosive. Spontaneous unorganized actions by particular groups are taking place. The people demand an urgent solution to the question of the cash settlement of debts, and they call for the activities of the social bodies that regulate cash circulation to be put in order without delay.

The agency notes that currently in Sakhalin Oblast about 5 billion rubles are owed in wages.

Kaliningrad Troops No 'Threat' to Neighbors

LD2007193692

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1100 GMT on 18 July carries in its "Radar" program entitled "Armed Forces and Society" an item on the troop presence in Kaliningrad Oblast.

Announcer Igor Makarov says: "Comparatively recently the presence of soldiers on the territory of Kaliningrad Oblast has started worrying its neighbors, particularly Lithuania and Poland. Thus is illustrated by negative statements made by Lithuania's Supreme Soviet Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and Foreign Affairs Chairman Jolanta Jacuckiene, as well as by former Polish Defense Minister Jan Parys. Do our neighbors really have weighty grounds for concern?"

A military expert, Reserve Captain First Class Oleg Mikhaylovich Lisov then speaks. He stresses that Kaliningrad Oblast has always been and continues to be an integral part of Russia where mainly Russians, Byelarusians, and Ukrainians live. The 11th Combined-Arms Army is stationed on the oblast's territory as well as the main forward base of the Baltic "Twice Red Banner" Fleet. There is the port of Baltiysk and the staff of the "Twice Red Banner" Baltic Fleet in Kaliningrad.

Lisov quotes Lieutenant General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the 11th Army as saying: "The force grouping in Kaliningrad Oblast has of late been considerably reduced, and it does not pose any threat either to Lithuania or to Poland."

Lisov adds that "at present 11,000 officers, the same number of warrant officers, and some 30,000 private sailors are serving in the Baltic Fleet, including the Baltic countries, that is to say, some 55,000 men: This is what was stated by Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander of the 'Twice Red Banner' Baltic Fleet."

Lisov says in conclusion that Kaliningrad Oblast has as many troops as it needs for its defense.

Krasnodar Asks for State Border With Georgia

LD2007214592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The lesser council of the Krasnodar Kray Soviet has adopted an appeal to the Russian parliament and to President Boris Yeltsin personally containing a request to set a state boundary with the Republic of Georgia for the summer and autumn of this year, the RIKA agency reports. The lesser council considers it necessary to introduce a visa regime for persons who are not citizens of Russia. Local authorities are concerned at the sharp rise in armed crimes committed by individual residents of Georgia as well as at the mass export from the Krasnodar Kray of foodstuffs and other goods.

Khasbulatov Visits 'Chernobyl-Affected' Village

LD1807102692

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1457 GMT on 14 July broadcast a program entitled Parliamentary Herald. The program covers a visit by Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov to the village of Uvelye in Krasnnogorskiy Rayon of Bryansk Oblast, where the radiation background is still 184 microroentgens per hour—10 times greater than it was before the Chernobyl accident. As a result, the villagers are being forced to resettle elsewhere.

The villagers complain to Khasbulatov that the community is being broken up as handfuls of apartments are offered in different locations, or where a newly built settlement is being offered there are no facilities, not even water. In spite of the dangerous levels of radiation, the older members of the community are determined to remain.

Khasbulatov is welcomed at the village. He promises that the Russian parliament will do everything it can to improve life for these Chernobyl-affected villagers. He states that he has come to hear their complaints for himself.

V.L. Grishin, president of the Chernobyl Union, says that because greater publicity resulted in greater awareness, Chernobyl-affected villagers in Ukraine are living better, but it is only the recent openness regarding their situation that has awakened discontent among the villagers of Chernobyl-affected Russia.

After hearing the complaints, Khasbulatov asks what the State Committee for Chernobyl is doing and comments that he can see that the ministries are doing what they like. Just as before, they are altering the laws to suit themselves, and he states that one must ensure that the laws are implemented. He pledges the support of the Russian Supreme Soviet to get to the bottom of this state of affairs and to help the Chernobyl-stricken areas.

Ministry Plans Yuzhno-Uralsk Nuclear Plant

LD1807182592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1413 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] According to some reports, the Ministry of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation plans to construct a Yuzhno-Uralsk nuclear power plant in the Chelyabinsk region, contrary to the returns of the 1991 regional referendum.

PF [POSTFACTUM] was informed at the Chelyabinsk regional administration that 2 variants of the draft resolution of the Russian Government on construction of nuclear power plants and objects of nuclear power energy in the territory of the Russian Federation designed by the Ministry of Nuclear Energy were received on July 16. The first draft of the resolution does not include a project of the Yuzhno-Uralsk nuclear power plant while its appendixes contain a proposal by the first deputy head of the Tver Regional Administration, Victor Bobkov, on putting into operation of the plant till the year of 2000 and opinion of the head of the Sverdlovsk Regional Administration Eduard Rossel which supports the proposal and excludes possible extension of the Beloyarsk nuclear power plant (Sverdlovsk Region).

The second variant of the draft envisages construction of the Yuzhno-Uralsk nuclear power plant, which, according to documents, had already been coordinated with the administration and session of the city soviet of Chelyabinsk-65 as early as in 1989 while the draft is dated June 1992. An employee of the Radiation Committee of the Chelyabinsk Regional Administration who wished to remain anonymous, informed PF that another expertise [as received] of the project (estimated at R132 billion) has been scheduled while the most expensive draft program for rehabilitation of the population suffered from and territories contaminated during the 1957 accident at the Chelyabinsk-based Mayak Production Association is accounted at R32 billion.

Kuban Farmers Fix Price for Sale of Wheat

LD1807123692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0605 GMT 18 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar, 18 Jul—The grain prices fixed by Russia's Agriculture and Food Ministry do not suit the Kuban, Viktor Kryuchkov, deputy head of the kray administration, has stated on local television. In his view many farms today selling a kilogram of wheat at six to eight rubles will be simply ruined tomorrow. Therefore the kray administration has been forced to fix its own grain purchase prices. It is calculated that a grain farmer should sell his wheat for 12 rubles per kilogram on average. Viktor Kryuchkov considers this a realistic price. It will give even an average farm an opportunity to keep going till next year.

In his words, the kray administration has sent Yegor Gaydar a telegram, asking him to endorse these prices for the region. In the event of a negative reply, the Kuban people will seek out other options, but they will not deliver their grain to the elevators for a trifle, Viktor Kryuchkov stressed.

Bread Prices Continue To Rise in Kuzbass

LD2107023392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Prices of bread and baked goods in Kuzbass will not become relatively stable until September, but the

maximum cost of a loaf of bread will not exceed 13 rubles, journalists were told by (Sergey Vopyrev), deputy head of the oblast administration. For the time being, the price of a loaf of bread will rise by an average of one ruble every ten days. The rise in the cost of bread products is due to the rise in the price of grain, which is brought into Kuzbass entirely from other countries and regions. (Sergey Vopyrev) emphasized that for the time being a sharp increase in bread prices is being avoided through the barter of coal and by subsidies from the budget.

City Enterprise Debts Increase in St Petersburg

LD2007194492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to the Main Directorate of the Central Russian Bank for St. Petersburg, the listed debt of city enterprises has reached 70 billion rubles. The debt to city enterprises is almost 55 billion rubles. The country's total listed debt is estimated at 2.3 trillion rubles. This figure increases every day by approximately 30 billion.

International Affairs

Security Services Agreement Signed With Russia

LD2007171792 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 0729 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 20 Jul—On the instructions of the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, Yevgeniy Marchuk, head of the Ukrainian National Security Service, and Viktor Barannikov, the Russian minister of security, signed an agreement here today on cooperation and interaction between the security bodies of both states. It confirms the adherence of the Russian and Ukrainian special services to the principles of international security, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and state independence of Russia and Ukraine.

A joint communique was adopted on the results of the documents that were signed. It states that in connection with the need for precise regulation of relations between the special services on the basis of mutual trust and respect, and refusal to tolerate work by one service against the other, the sides express readiness for equal and mutually advantageous cooperation in the defense of common, vitally important state interests.

Long-term cooperation between the Russian Ministry of Security and the Ukrainian Security Service envisages the exchange of information on any subversive aspirations which are uncovered on the part of foreign organizations and special services against Russia and Ukraine, cooperation in preventing and stopping smuggling and the illegal export of valuables, cooperation in the campaign against interstate and interregional organized crime, all forms of terrorism, the illegal circulation of drugs and mind-altering substances, and cooperation in seeking and detaining individuals who have committed or who are suspected of having committed crimes, the investigation of which lies within their competence.

Information on any threat to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, defense capability, economic and ecological security of the two countries, or the lives and good health of their citizens, as well as archive and other information which does not damage the interests of both States, will be provided to each other free of charge.

In accordance with the standards of international law, the special services of Russia and Ukraine have agreed on cooperation in ensuring the security of citizens of their states and of diplomatic missions, of installations which are classified as highly dangerous, and of the missile and space complex. An accord has been reached on cooperation in ensuring the security of the armed forces which are being set up by Russia and Ukraine. Cooperation is also envisaged in the areas of training, retraining and improving the skills of cadres of the Russian Ministry of Security and of the Ukrainian Security Service and, in the event of their being transferred from one country to another, in safeguarding the political, economic, social and everyday and personal rights of staff and pensioners of the security bodies and of members of their families. The sides will assist each other in resolving issues of material and technical supply.

The special services pledge not to divulge operational material and other secret information to which they have gained access through an exchange. The bilateral agreements rule out the use against each other by the special services not only of their own forces and resources, but also the capacities of third countries. According to the mutual agreement between the sides, cooperation may also develop in other areas of their activity.

After the agreement signing ceremony, Yevgeniy Marchuk and Viktor Barannikov held a briefing for representatives of the mass media.

Foreign Minister on Relations With Russia

LD1707223692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1929 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev July 17 TASS—The meeting of Ukrainian and Russian presidents, Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin, in Dagomys was a turning point in solving the existing problems between the two countries and had a positive impact on relations inside the Commonwealth, according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko.

"I believe that thanks to the Dagomys meeting relations between Ukraine and Russia got a tendency of rapprochement, on the one hand, and determined the irreversible process of Ukrainian sovereignty and our relations with Russia on an equal basis, on the other," he said at a briefing on Friday [17 July].

This concerns other CIS states as well. "The positive impulse of the Dagomys meeting became a reality," Zlenko added.

It is of importance that Ukrainian diplomacy won for the country its legitimate right to be a party to the START treaty. It is also important that considerable results were achieved in averting local conflicts and decreasing the danger in the so-called risk zones, according to Zlenko. He expressed hope the problem of the disputed Black Sea Fleet will get out of the deadlock.

Relations with former Soviet republics and Ukrainian participaion in European affairs are the two major directions in the activities of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Zlenko stressed.

Ukraine strengthened its positions in Europe by attending important international meetings in Lisbon,

Oslo, Brussels, Helsinki. The visits of President Kravchuk to Turkey, France, the United States, Belgium and Finland promoted better international cooperation, Zlenko said.

Morozov, Grachev Hold Talks in Bolgrad

LD2007225392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] According to information, once again, from the press service of the Defense Ministry, a second meeting was held recently between Colonel General Konstantyn Morozov, minister of defense of Ukraine, and Army General Pavel Grachev, minister of defense of the Russian Federation in the town of Bolgrad, Odessa Oblast. During the meeting the issue of the further fate of the airborne division deployed here was discussed. During the meeting the transfer of servicemen who are citizens of Ukraine from the Western Group of Troops, along with other military districts of the Commonwealth of Independent States, to the armed forces of Ukraine. Problems connected with this were also discussed. The defense ministers also discussed issues on the future of the Black Sea Fleet in light of the agreement signed by heads of states in Dagomys.

Reconnaissance Party Departs for Yugoslavia

LD2107083792 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] [no dateline as received]— A reconnaissance party of Ukrainian servicemen has left for Yugoslavia in the framework of the UN peace-making mission. According to a report by Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Bezruchenko, senior officer of the tactical group of Sarajevo sector troop headquarters, which was received by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, the tactical group has been temporarily quartered in the UN troops headquarters.

The situation in the city is complicated. Intensive exchanges of fire are being carried out by the opposed sides with the use of tanks and artillery. One is only allowed to move in the city if accompanied by guards in armored vehicles. The battalion of Ukrainian servicemen, which will soon be sent to Yugoslavia, will have the task of demilitarizing the region of Dobrinja and subsequently disarming Serbian and Croatian formations.

In the future it is planned to quarter servicemen from Ukraine in the Tito barrack building. However, this issue has not been settled completely due to difficulties in concluding a contract with local authorities. The command of the UN troops is waiting for the battalion from Ukraine and is ready to allocate additional transport to transfer the battalion from Belgrade to Sarajevo in one trip.

Chernobyl Evacuees To Return to Ukraine

LD1807161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, July 16—Arrangement has been reached between Ukraine and Moldova to return home citizens who were evacuated from the Chernobyl area to Moldova in 1986. These are several thousand people who lived in the town of Pripyat, the Kiev Region.

The Moldovan Government, specifically, pledged itself to provide haulage and railway transport to carry citizens property. Ukraine will supply fuel for this transport. Those leaving for the native country will be compensated for the cost of building housing and will be able to withdraw their savings from accounts in the full volume and with indexing. Youths of the call-up age will not be recruited to the Moldovan National Army.

The sides pledged themselves to create the necessary conditions for the resettlement of citizens by September 1, and not later than December 31 of the current year.

National Affairs

Border Guards on Alert as Clashes Continue

LD2107111892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1004 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] In a telephone conversation this morning Colonel [?Petro Medvid] of the press department of the Frontier Guards of Ukraine, stated that, although the disuniting of troops continued during the weekend in Dniester it was rather slow. The warring sides are accusing one another of violating the agreements reached. Armed clashes continued in Bendery and Dubossary. The Ukrainian frontier guards have been put on the alert.

Kasatonov 'Threatens' on Black Sea Fleet Issue

LD1707212492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1140 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] In his messages to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, the state commission for negotiations on the Black Sea issue and to the defense minister of Ukraine, Admiral Kasatonov threatens that the Black Sea Naval Fleet will be made ready for action and that representatives of the Naval Forces and the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine will be arrested on the spot if found in Black Sea stationing areas.

These facts were disclosed today [15 July] by Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine Lieutenant General Ivan Bizhan in his interview for the newspaper 'NARODNA ARMIYA'. All this proves that the Black Sea commander joined political struggle, which can hardly be referred to other than anti-Ukrainian campaign, summarized Lt. Gen. Ivan Bizhan. [sentence as heard]

Naval Personnel Swear Allegiance to Ukraine

LD1907221692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 0844 GMT 17 Jul 92

[by UKRINFORM correspondents Yevgeniy Rudenko and Genadiy Shkadin]

[Text] Kiev, 17 July—Officers and warrant officers of the Naval School of Communications deployed in Nikolayev have sworn allegiance to the people of Ukraine. At a meeting of the officer corps, the sailors adopted an appeal to servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet, in which they expressed alarm in connection with the uncertainty of the fleet's status, of the future of the sailors and their families, and with the state of the conflict which has arisen.

The appeal stated that what is happening now is leading to the final disintegration of the fleet, to a sheer loss of its combat effectiveness, and to a general aggravation of tension. The artificial delaying of the problem of the Black Sea Fleet gives rise to mistrust between the two peoples. An impression is being formed that somebody is consciously playing the trump card in order to achieve far-reaching aims, and in this big game our role is one of political hostages, note the sailors. They demand honesty, decency, endurance and prudence from us, but in return they offer a difficult and long "divorce suit."

We suggest that people discard ambitions and begin the difficult and laborious work of forming the young naval forces of Ukraine together, the appeal stressed.

Servicemen Dismissed

LD1907220792 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] According to the press center of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, the personnel of the military command headquarters of the Kacha aviation garrison have sworn allegiance to the people of Ukraine. However, those servicemen were immediately dismissed from their posts because they swore allegiance to their people. No documents or written orders on that issue came from the Command of the Black Sea Fleet. Undesirable servicemen were simply thrown out, and placed at the disposal of the commander of the Naval Forces of Ukraine.

Sevastopol Guard Command 'Ready for Actions'

LD1807204292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1428 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The acting military commandant of Sevastopol Guard: The commandant office of Sevastopol is ready for actions and takes orders from the Commandant Colonel Vladimir Korneyev, the acting military commandant of Sevastopol Guard, gave his comments to PF [POSTFACTUM] in connection with the acute situation that emerged in the guard of Sevastopol due to an attempt of the former commandant Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Zverev and his subordinates who took their military oath to Ukraine to capture the commandant's office of the city.

Vladimir Korneyev also said: The guard and the patrol service goes in its usual manner. Pistols that were used by the commandant's office personnel are now in safes which unfortunately cannot be said about the lorries, communication means and videotape recorder that was stolen by the ex-commandant from the office.

In the Chernomorskiy fleet general staff they also said to PF that Lieutenant-Colonel Zverev left in his own car and is now hiding himself in the Sevastopol Marine School. He and his subordinates are trying to set up the general staff of the Ukrainian naval forces. The Defense Ministry of Ukraine promoted Zverev to the rank of colonel. According to the Chernomorskiy fleet staff the situation in the city is under control and no accidents can be expected.

Formation of Naval Headquarters Proposed

LD2007223792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Union of Officers of the naval forces of Ukraine has adopted an appeal which states that in connection with the dead end situation regarding the division of the Black Sea Fleet and the agreements adopted in Dagomys with regard to the formation of the naval forces of Ukraine, and in view of the lack of protection of the personnel which has sworn allegiance, allegiance to Ukraine [as heard] and thus is presenting itself for transfer to the reserves or dismissal from posts, further delay in the process of forming of the naval forces of Ukraine is unacceptable.

The Union of Officers of the naval forces of Ukraine proposes forming the headquarters of the naval forces within the shortest period of time, with all the appropriate structures of administration and provisions. This should be done before the practical division of the Black Sea Fleet to begin to form the naval forces of Ukraine on the basis of newly built ships and vessels. The headquarters will assist in the normal functioning of the basic services and administrations of the naval forces in terms of logistics and other forms of support for the Black Sea Fleet.

EC to Finance Officer Training Program

LD1907230892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[No video available]

[Text] The European Community has allocated $12 million to finance a training program for high-ranking leaders in Ukraine and republics of the former union. (Neil Parenson), who is the leader of the program,

informed that they would be able to receive fundamental consultations on issues of international economic relations, industrial, financial, and agrarian policy, and strategy of economic reforms.

Plans for Return of Servicemen From CIS Noted

LD2107112792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A package of documents and recommendations specifying the concrete time and procedure for the transfer of Ukrainian servicemen from CIS countries to the motherland was sent on 20 July to the president, the parliament, and the Defense Ministry. It was adopted in Kiev at a congress of parents of officers, ensigns, warrant officers, and servicemen carrying out military service outside the borders of Ukraine. There are over 300,000 of these men, stressed Colonel Oleksandr Slyusarev, head of the Union of Officers of the Ukrainian Diaspora. It is necessary to return them as soon as possible, he said. The final time is the end of 1993 or the beginning of 1994. In order to provide financially for such a mass return of its sons to Ukraine, Col. Slyusarev stressed, it is planned to organize commercial structures and military trade unions.

'Insufficient' Grain Harvest Expected

OW2007175392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] This year's grain harvest in Ukraine will not exceed last year's, will prove insufficient for the republic's own consumption, and once again mean that grain will have to be purchased from abroad, according to a radio interview with the Deputy Head of the Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Nikolay Grinko. Grinko also stated that grain yield in the southern regions of Ukraine would fall by 2 or 3 centners per hectare owing to the dry spring.

Economic Freedom Party Begins Formation

LD1807200392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] An initiative group on the setting up of a new party, the Party of Economic Freedom, has started functioning in the Crimea. It has been declared that this party will reflect the interests of all those who share the ideas of market economy and who wish to influence the economic policy of the authorities. The initiators believe only economic freedom of citizens can secure reliable guarantees of human rights, people's wellbeing, democracy, and stability in society.

Rukh Support For Democratic Forces Noted

LD2007224192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] A Congress of National Democratic Forces of Ukraine is due to take place on 2 August. The main goal of this meeting is to support state-making processes in our country. The small council of the People's Movement of Ukraine discussed this issue today.

[Correspondent] There is one thing that Rukh could never complain about—it is lack of rumors and stories around it. It seems that the latest one has been dismissed by the composition of the small presidium where co-chairmen Vyacheslav Chornovil and Ivan Drach sat next to each other. Apart from that, as it turned out, both of them were in favor of Rukh taking part in the congress. Leaders of local organizations also adopted this stance although with many reservations. Bohdan Boyko described the main one in the following way: If the congress turns into an anti-Rukh, one should not support it. In our view, the proposition to strengthen positive points in it was a significant thing during the discussion of a resolution on this issue. The search for possible prospective allies of Rukh also caused heated discussions and Nova Ukrayina [New Ukraine] was named as being on top of the list among them. Les Tanyuk spoke in favor of an alliance with its certain forces—as you see, great caution is being shown as well. Among other issues discussed was the issue on completing the new registration of Rukh members and convocation of its fourth All-Ukrainian conference in autumn. The issue of a campaign as regards early suspension of the powers of the Supreme Council of Ukraine was examined as an extremely important one.

So the final decision on the issue concerning Rukh's participation in the Congress of Democratic Forces has not yet been taken. What are your forcasts?

[Chornovil] I think that we will be at the Congress of Democratic Forces in any case because we are already making this congress. This congress is already living. We also created coordination councils in oblasts. If someone wants to shape it in some other way, why should we be aside? We only object to this thing becoming some superstructure—a new movement or a new party. However, it is wonderful as a coordination council. We have been doing this, and if we finally shape it up and if the Democratic and Republican Parties meet us half-way, and we shape up this idea to the end—this will be wonderful. Therefore, we put forward our conditions, these are: resignation of the government, participation in the referendum as regards the Supreme Council, I mean in preparing and in collecting signatures, opposition to the presidential representation, to the composition, to those cadres; it is criticism of drawbacks of the constitution and the demand that new members of the Parliament should adopt it. These are the nearest tasks and also organizational issues—so that it does not become any kind of superstructure—it is only a coordination council without the chairman and administration, they

should be elected, be chairmen in turns and coordinate issues, just as we thought. If this is adopted we will be participants with equal rights. I think Rukh will be a leading force there.

[Correspondent] What can you say in relation to cooperation of Rukh with Nova Ukrayina?

[Chornovil] Nova Ukrayina is a serious organization, certain economic structures are employed there and so forth. We will cooperate with it. So far it is very vague politically, therefore we will cooperate with it in those directions where we have a lot in common. Especially in regards to the economic program, the economic program of Rukh and economic program of Nova Ukrayina hardly have any differences. Why should we not cooperate? They also stated, just like we did, that they thought this parliament, this Supreme Council has exhausted itself and one should try and achieve its dissolution. We, too—these are common directions, why should we dissociate ourselves from Nova Ukrayina?.

Well I also wanted to use the opportunity—some two days ago incorrect information could be heard on the radio about Viktor Burlakov, the chairman of the secretariat of Rukh, that he left Rukh. This is not exactly so. Viktor Burlakov is only taking up a different job and he asked to be relieved from the duties of chairman of the Secretariat. He remains a member of the leadership of Rukh and deputy chairman of Rukh. Mykhaylo Boychyshyn, another deputy chairman of Rukh, has been elected chairman of the secretariat of Rukh. I simply would like to say—the mass media were in a hurry to report something that does not exist.

[Correspondent] Will you take part in the Congress?

[Chornovil] Obviously, yes.

Crimean Peoples' Congress Attendance Low

LD1807202492 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1604 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol, 17 Jul—Today the Congress of Peoples of Crimea started with a scandal. Anushavan Danelian, chairman of standing commission of the republic's Supreme Council and chairman of administration of the Armenian Society of Crimea, who was listed in the program among its cochairmen, made public his statement that his surname was in it without his consent. As far as the event itself is concerned, he said that it could hardly be called the Congress of Peoples of Crimea because national societies did not make a decision to hold it.

The idea of the congress itself is good, said Boris Balian, chairman of the Crimean Culture Fund. In principle, it is supported by all cultural and educational societies of the republic and by its parliament and government. However, serious mistakes have been made in the course of its preparation. In order to hold the congress, societies, organizations, and movements should have elected delegates and should have given them certain powers. This has not been done. A little more than 100 people gathered in the conference hall, and as a result, a decision was made to hold a meeting instead of a congress. However, they had to suspend the discussion about the activity of national formations, and the issues of protecting small peoples and preserving their cultures, which had already started. Yakov Hadji, chairman of Karaite Society, passed away while on the rostrum of the Presidium. On that sad note, the first attempt to unite national communities of the Crimea was concluded.

Problems With Crimean Tatars' Return Aired

LD1907213592 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1315 GMT 15 Jul 92

[by UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol, 15 July—Negotiations between leaders of the Committee on Issues of Deported Peoples under the Council of Ministers of Crimea and leaders of the Crimean-Tatar Parliament have come to and end. As is known, at the rally of Crimean Tatars, which took place on 12 July, the parliament expressed no confidence in Lentun Bezaziev, deputy head of the Council of Ministers, who is in charge of interethnic relations, and also expressed no confidence in the committee and demanded its dismissal.

Its representatives were not so categorical at the negotiations. They agreed with the fact that so far, as the Committee on Issues of Deported Peoples is the only structure of its kind, which in practice does not have analogies, mistakes and omissions are possible in its work. Therefore, so far they intend only to strive to ensure that the work of the committee, mainly its financial side, is under the control of the parliament. The national government also insists that the candidates of specialists appointed to the committee and to its organs in the provinces are agreed by it. The demand was also put forward that everything connected with the allocation of housing and with the granting of privileges to those returning to the Crimea should be made public.

Some of the representatives of the other side recognized many claims to be well grounded. They also supported suggestions on efforts for raising the committee's status and granting it the exclusive right to be in change of all means allocated for implementing the program on the return of the Crimean Tatars.

The report that from now on the committee will concentrate all forces on the problems of the Crimean Tatar people was received with satisfaction. Another organization will be engaged in the issues of the return of deported Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, and Germans.

Greeks, Crimean Tatars in Dispute Over Land

PM2007112292 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Greeks Against Crimean Tatars?"]

[Text] Crimean land may apparently become the bone of contention between the Crimean Tatars who were deported at one time and have now returned, and the Greeks. "There are around 5,000 of the latter in the Crimea today," Captain First Rank Andrey Lazebnikov, chief of the Black Sea Fleet press center, told us. "Vasiliadi is their leader. Thus, by a decision of the Crimean Supreme Soviet dated 19 June, the Greeks were allocated 32.4 hectares of land where they could resettle in the area of the Dubki sovkhoz [state farm]. However, as it turns out, the Crimean Tatars have settled there. Neither of the sides wants to give up the welcome land. It is not out of the question that the confrontation between the Greeks and the Crimean Tatars may grow into a serious conflict."

Byelarus

Defense Ministry Selling Equipment, Property

OW2007141192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Byelarusian Defense Ministry has set up a commercial department for sales of armed forces equipment and property.

In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], the head of the department, Major-General Mikhail Gets, said the ministry had some 200 items of equipment and property on sale, including MAZ-537 lorries with semi-trailers, ATs-5.5/375 fuel tanks based on Ural lorries, mobile repair shops and kitchens, and protective overalls.

According to Gets, the ministry has already had a revenue of 100m [million] rubles from such sales. "But we need a permission from the government of the republic for each transaction," he said.

French Experts Plan To Help Destroy Ammunition

LD2007132492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By BELINFORMA correspondent Leonod Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk July 20 TASS—Byelarusian military units and French experts intend to start a project to destroy ammunition accumulated on the territory of Byelarus, the Byelarusian Defence Ministry reported on Monday [20 July].

A preliminary agreement on this effect was reached last week in Minsk by Byelarusian First Deputy Defence Minister Aleksandr Tushinskiy and French Director for Strategy and Planning Alain Brocard.

Detonators, shell bodies, cartridge cases, gunpowder and explosive substances are to be processed. Part of the processed explosives will be sold to ore-miners and builders, the gunpowder will go into varnish industry, detonators will be used for construction of television appliances, watches and other household appliances. Shell bodies and cartridge cases will find application in non-ferrous metals. There are also plans to produce ammunition for hunting and sports rifles.

In September, the French side is expected to make its proposals and name companies which will participate in the project, Brocard said.

Prime Minister on Market Economy, Western Ties

PM2107090692 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by Sophie Shihab on interview with Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, who took part in a seminar organized by the Economy and Finance Ministry in Paris last week, welcomed the fact that the French leaders are now advocating what was always the "Byelarusian path" for the transition to the market: "Making haste slowly" to avoid, he said, "the horrible Polish example of shock treatment.

Byelarus is a paradox: The smallest of the three Slav republics which have emerged from the USSR, it is the one in which there have been fewest political upheavals—the government and the parliament comprise former Communists to a greater extent than in Ukraine and Russia—and the one in which the economic indicators are the best, as is the new legislation. With regard to the protection of foreign investments in particular, the IMF said that Byelarus has gone "further than the other CIS countries," Mr. Kebich reported proudly. Of course, he protests when you stress the combination of political continuity and a lesser economic collapse: "Let those who want revolutions draw such conclusions," said this former chairman of the Byelarusian State Planning Committee, Gosplan, responsible for all the socialist failures.

But he has no hesitation in stating that "those who worked in Gosplan are now the best qualified people in Byelarus," that they have drawn up a "gradual" privatization program (spread over eight years), and that the Byelarusian parliament, although made up of members of the former regime, was the first in the former USSR to pass a law authorizing private ownership of land. The Byelarusian opposition—anticommunist and nationalist—has thus remained on the fringes; although it is still demanding a dissolution of parliament, "none of them," Mr. Kebich said, "seems prepared to shoulder the responsibility which I carry and which I am quite prepared to hand over."

It is true that this 55-year old man, as steady as the republic he has governed for almost three years—when it was openly a bastion of communist conservatism—now feels better understood by this West to which all his opponents refer: "The seminar which you French have organized for us today has taken place under a single watchword: 'Slowly but surely.' And we have before us," the prime minister continued, "the horrible example of Poland which has given in to shock treatment and which is now, through President Walesa, advising Kebich not to make the same mistakes." The Polish president gave him that advice, he explained, during two recent meetings.

According to Mr. Kebich, the enterprises, whose products no longer interest people, must be given time to

change course without making all their workers redundant. How? Mr. Kebich rejected the idea of a return to a degree of "protectionism" which is taboo in the post-communist era. But Mr. Lavrinovich, the Byelarusian "supreme boss" ("the local Volskiy" people call him—a reference to the apparatchik who plays that role in Russia) who accompanied him, admitted that "an internal market" must be protected.

This market will be, among other things, that of the CIS "where there will be a form of union, different from the present one, encompassing fewer states, but more efficient," Mr. Kebich said. His country only started to become known when its capital Minsk became the capital of the CIS: Free from interethnic conflicts, too small to compete with Russia or Ukraine, it is only seeking first place in "moderation" and presents itself as a model of common sense for healthy economic cooperation.

Unlike Ukraine, Byelarus has not imposed taxes on the transit of Russian gas and oil exports. In return, Minsk has obtained from Moscow the oil it wanted (Byelarus has a processing and refining industry but no oil) and the promise of a continuation of supplies at an agreed price until the end of 1992.

Its agreements with Moscow also relate to the continuation of sales of products by the Byelarusian military-industrial enterprises, in return for funding by Minsk of the many troops, including those withdrawn from Germany and stationed on its territory. This will put a strain on the Byelarusian budget, but this state is one of the only ones in the former USSR to be able to afford that, having had more income than expenditure until last year.

This picture, which is anything but gloomy, has not escaped the Germans and "80 German businessmen have just visited Minsk," Mr. Kebich stressed. Bonn, like Rome, has already transferred to Byelarus funds granted to the former USSR and agreements have been signed between Minsk and numerous Europeans, and with South Korea, Israel, and Kuwait. But not with France: Mr. Kebich agreed with Michel Sapin on the rapid signing of an economic agreement but, meanwhile, the Byelarusian prime minister brought forward his departure from Paris by 24 hours to dine with Helmut Kohl because he was unable to meet with his counterpart Mr. Beregovoy.

Moldova

New Defense, Security Ministers Appointed

LD2107110192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 21 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau July 21 TASS—The Moldovan parliament appointed new defence and security ministers on Tuesday [21 July]. Pavel Kryange, former first deputy defence minister, now heads the ministry, while Vasile Kalmoy, former commander of the border guard detachment of Moldova, became the national security minister.

A group of Moldovan volunteers who arrived from the Dniester region staged a hunger strike on Monday protesting the dismissal of the former defence and security ministers, Ion Kostash and Anatol Plugaru, who were called "the ministers of war" in Moldova. The volunteers threatened self-immolation.

The Popular Front of Moldova denounced the initiative of the Russian and Moldovan presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur, aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict. The front's "TSARA" newspaper qualified it as "a Bolshevik coup". The front's leaders insist the crisis can be overcome only in case Moldova immediately seceeds from the Commonwealth and unites with Romania.

Dniester Leader Rejects Cabinet Posts Proposal

OW2007173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview to Tiraspol radio the Dniestrian leader Igor Smirnov declared that the leadership of Dniester refutes from the quota proposed by Moldova to the representatives of the Left bank in the Moldovan government. According to Smirnov, this gesture on the part of Moldova is nothing more "but a cheap political trick aimed to dust the eyes of the world public".

The Moldovan leadership is known to propose to Dniester representatives posts of Minister of Finance, Industry, and on territories' affairs, and a post of the first deputy Defense Minister.

The final resolution on the composition of the government is to be adopted at the session of the Moldovan parliament on Tuesday, July 21.

Reliable sources told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the new Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli intends to propose resignation of several ministers of the former government at this session. The most sharp discussions are supposed to be held around the new candidates for the posts of the Minster of Defense and Minister of National Security. At present Pavel Kryange and Vasili Kalmoy are fulfilling the functions of these ministers in accordance with Snegur's decree.

Official Says Government Violating Cease-Fire

LD1907175592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The head of the Dniester region's defense directorate has reported on today's situation in the conflict region. He noted that the Moldovan leadership is accumulating armed forces against the Dniester region

guards. A Russian delegation headed by Valeriy Krasnov, leader of the Secretariat of the Russian vice president, has arrived here within the framework of Rutskoy's peacekeeping mission. At a meeting with the delegation, Stefan Kitsak, head of the Dniester region defense directorate, reported that, in the Kochiyery area, 500 servicemen of the Moldovan Army have taken the place of 200 policemen [politsai] sanctioned by the Moldovan side. Kitsak stressed that the accord on a cease-fire in the Bendery region is not being observed.

There is not a single enterprise in the town that is able to work. Over 15 percent of the enterprises are completely destroyed. It is a systematic annihilation of the town that was worked out in advance, Kitsak said.

'Attackers' Kill Bendery Military Commander

LD2007140792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—Unidentified attackers shot and killed a Bendery military commander on Saturday [18 July], Boris Luchik, procurator of the Trans-Dniester Moldova Republic Boris Luchik [as received] told TASS.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Yuriy Kostenko, former commander of Bendery city guardsmen, was killed when he was being transferred from a detention center in Tiraspol to an unidentified location. Two police escorts have been wounded, Luchik said.

Investigators received a warrant to arrest Kostenko on April 9. However, Kostenko's group was "liquidated" on July 16. The commander was arrested on charges of attacking Moldovan police and Dniester guardsmen, the procurator said.

He was first kept in a temporary detention center of the Tiraspol main interior affairs department and was then illegally transferred to other law-enforcement bodies for further investigation on orders from Interior Ministry department chief Vladimir Bogdanov, Luchik said, without specifying where Kostenko had been transferred.

"I have opened a case against Tiraspol main interior affairs department chief Vladimir Bogdanov," Luchik said.

Kostenko was killed under suspicious circumstances, observers point out. It is unclear, who wanted his death and killed him to cover up the tracks.

EC To Initiate Aid Program for Government

LD1807172492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0902 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau July 17 TASS—The European Community will initiate a programme of assistance to Moldova after its experts visit the former Soviet republic in September, according to a senior official from the Moldovan Foreign Economic Ministry.

Documents on technical assistance between Moldova and the EC were signed last February, Larisa Atamanyuk told MOLDOVA-PRESS on Friday [17 July]. The programme concentrates mostly on help in agriculture, as well as on the development of energetics, transport and telecommunications. Small and medium-scale businesses and privatisation will also be paid attention to.

Over 800 Moldovans will be annually retrained at European enterprises, she added.

'Brain Drain' Continues as Scientists Leave

LD1807143792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1055 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau, 16 Jul—Over a period of two and a half years, 230 scientific workers, including two corresponding members, 10 doctors, and 58 candidates of science, have left the Moldovan Academy of Sciences to go abroad. The brain drain is continuing. Journalists were told this today by Andrey Andriyesh, president of the Moldovan Academy of Sciences. He noted that difficulties with housing construction and the low wages in comparison with other parts of the national economy make it difficult to attract talented youth to academic science, which puts the future of science, and in the end the whole of society, under threat.

According to Andreyish, finance is one of the most difficult questions for the Academy of Sciences. The academy's president considers that the financial difficulties which have arisen for the state do not provide an opportunity for creating normal conditions for scientific work. There is not enough money for renewing the material basis or acquiring materials and equipment, without which it is impossible to conduct research, particularly in the sphere of experimental sciences.

Kazakhstan

Deputy Prime Minister Relieved of Post

LD2007181692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kalyk Abdullayev has been relieved of his post of deputy prime minister and chairman of the National Agency for Foreign Investments, in connection with his transfer to another post.

Uralsk Oblast Expecting Good Harvest

LD1807122292 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] A fairly good harvest of winter and spring crops is expected in Uralsk oblast. In this connection, additional threshing floors and grain procurement [khlebopriyemnyye punkty] points have been set up in the provinces. In the republic's southern areas, harvesting has already started. Crops have been cut and threshed on the first few thousands of hectares in Dzhanybekskiy, Kaztalovskiy, and Urdinskiy rayons. Altogether, local grain producers [khleborob] are to gather in grain [zernovyye] crops on an area of 1,446,000 hectares.

Cossacks Deny Involvement in Dniester Conflict

LD2107083392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Rumors have circulated lately in some towns in the republic alleging that Cossacks from Uralsk, along with those from the Don and Kuban, are taking part in hostilities against the Moldovan armed forces and police on the side of the Dniester guardsmen. Even the names of two people who have presumably died there have been mentioned. According to (Aleksandr Kachalin), chief of the Ural Cossacks, however, not a single Ural resident is taking part in the Dniester events, consequently, the information on the dead men is false.

Tough Measures Called For To Combat Crime

OW2007191992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nazarbayev has ordered a full meeting by interior ministry officials in Alma-Ata to discuss rampant crime in Kazakhstan. It also involved prime minister Sergey Tereshenko and general prosecutor Jarmakhan Tuyakbayev as well as top officials of the justice ministry, the Supreme Court and KGB.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The republic's interior ministry says crime rate was 26.3% up in the six months to July compared to the same period last year putting the number of crimes at more than 101,000. A total of 4,000 policemen were sacked because of abuse of professional conduct. The ministry said 13 policemen died and 19 others were injured over the period while in discharge of duty.

In a message to the meeting read out by prime minister Tereshenko, Nazarbayev urged for toughest measures yet to restore public order in Kazakhstan. He called on the police for greater initiative and persistence.

For his part, the premier said the government was doing as much as it could to help the police force, including the quadrupling of pay and income tax exemption.

The interior minister, Vladimir Shumov, announced a shake up in his department by appointing eight new district police commissioners. He also called to restore voluntary police units and for money rewards to to their members.

Oblast Delegations Meet on Economic Cooperation

LD2007214292 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] An interregional conference of representatives of Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, and Pavlodar Oblast administrations has been held in Ekibastuz. The delegations determined concrete provisions for agreements on economic cooperation which were then signed by heads of the administrations. The main issue, that of coal supplies from Ekibastuz to electric power stations in Russia, has been resolved.

'Revival of Leninist' Structures Group Statement

PM2007155992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Vladimir Ardayev: "Activity of Yesterday's Men in Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The Alma-Ata newspaper BIRLESU has published a statement by the so-called Organizing Committee for the Revival of Leninist Socialist Structures.

The authors of the statement insist on the immediate disbandment of the existing structures of power and administration, and also proclaim "from the hospitable land of Kazakhstan the revival of the Leninist Communist Party and its heroic Lenin Komsomol [Young Communist League] in a Union of 15 Soviet Socialist Republics." The statement is signed by such well known personalities as, for example, S. Goryacheva, V. Alksnis, A. Makashov, S. Umalatova, D. Kunayev...

Krygyzstan

Further on Talks With Turkish Foreign Minister

TA2007125592 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin has begun his contacts in Kyrgyzstan. The Turkish-Kyrgyz official talks are being held in Bishkek. An agreement on the talks will be signed tomorrow. Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Seref Yigit reports from Bishkek:

[Begin recording] Sezgin was first received by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev in Bishkek today. Akayev received Sezgin with affection and said: Welcome to the homeland of your ancestors. Akayev added that Kyrgyzstan wants to develop close cooperation with Turkey in all fields. Noting that Turkey has been helpful to Kyrgyzstan on many issues, Akayev expressed his gratitude. He concluded by saying that he would like to see Turkish President Turgut Ozal in Kyrgyzstan as soon as possible.

Sezgin said that Turkey is ready to extend every possible support and aid to Kyrgyzstan on the issues of democracy and a free market economy. He added that Turkey is exerting the necessary efforts regarding Kyrgyzstan's membership in the CSCE and the Council of Europe.

Later the official talks were held under the chairmanship of the interior ministers of the two countries, Sezgin and Sultalinov. In a statement at the talks, Sultalinov expressed the economic and social problems his country is facing in this period of transition. He especially stressed the gravity of the economic problems and said that his government is even having difficulties paying the salaries of its civil servants.

Sezgin said that the transition from a totalitarian regime to a democracy might be painful but democracy is not the cause of the pain. He added that Turkey will extend the necessary aid to Kyrgyzstan in its administrative and democratic structuring and that it will help Kyrgyzstan train its personnel for its internal security units.

The Turkish-Kyrgyz talks were continued at the level of experts. An agreement is expected to be signed tomorrow. [end recording]

Further on Talks With Council of Europe

TA1707191892 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, current president of the Council of Europe's [COE] Committee of Ministers, and Catherine Lalumiere, COE secretary general, are in the Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, the fourth leg of their tour of former Soviet republics. Yasar Kefeli from the Turkish Radio and Television [TRT] team in Bishkek reports the following:

With the new constitution it is preparing, Kyrgyzstan is beginning to reconstruct its policies on human rights, private property ownership, market economy, and judicial independence. Turkey is significantly helping Kyrgyzstan to implement those reforms.

During their stay in Bishkek, Cetin and Lalumiere were received by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev. Replying to reporters' questions after the meeting, Akayev said that a new constitution, which will soon be submitted to the parliament, is being prepared. He added that fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as labor and judicial reforms, are included in the new constitution. Noting that Turkey will be supporting his country in the implementation of the reforms in question, Akayev added that Turkey has extended financial aid to the development program in Kyrgyzstan. He noted that his government is in touch with various international finance organizations in order to realize the development program. He also stressed that Turkey is the only country in the Islamic world with which Kyrgyzstan has established economic, political, and cultural relations.

Cetin and Lalumiere were later received by Medetkan Sherimkulov, the chairman of the Kyrgyz Supreme Soviet.

Cetin and Lalumiere held a joint news conference after the official talks. Cetin said that Kyrgyzstan has made significant progress in its transition to a democratic system and a market economy and that Turkey is ready to extend all possible assistance to Kyrgyzstan in this period of transition. He added that the world should also help Kyrgyzstan in this transition. In reply to a question, Cetin said that there is no discrimination in Turkey. He noted that relations between Kyrgyz television and TRT should be developed and that Turkey attaches importance to the Eurasia transmissions.

Lalumiere said that Turkey, which is a COE member country, is in close cooperation with the Central Asian republics. A typical Kyrgyz luncheon was prepared for Cetin and Lalumiere today. The guests at the luncheon, which was held in (Alacadag), near Bishkek, also had the opportunity to be introduced to Kyrgyz folklore and traditions.

Cetin and Lalumiere will leave tomorrow for Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, the last leg of their tour. [end recording]

Akayev Streses Ties With Both East, West

OW2007192992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Akayev believes that by participating in the general European process the Central Asian countries would have better opportunities for consummating

their market economy and transforming themselves into a law-based civic society. He made this statement following his meeting with the European Council Secretary General Ms Lalumiere and Turkish foreign minister Hikmet Cetin.

The head of state underlined that not only his own frame of mind, as the president, but also the mentality of all the people of Kyrgyzstan, as a nation, coalesce the elements of the East as well as of the West. In his words, the territory of Kyrgyzstan had bridged the East with the West on the Great Silk Way for many centuries. We equally belong to Asia and Europe, the head of state says.

Asked what Kyrgyzstan expects from the European Community, President Akayev replied that first and foremost he counts on its "moral patronage of the transformations effected in the republic as well as on the West's contribution to the development of democratic traditions here". In the meantime, he admitted that "the oppositional forces are trying to deflect us toward the Islamic countries, often criticizing us for our attraction to the West". The head of state is convinced that the European Community can greatly influence the situation in Central Asia and avert potential social conflicts in that region. The Kyrgyz president is hopeful that his country could partake of the European culture, civilization, and up-to-date know-how, and that Europe could assist the republic in training national specialists in economics, management, and law.

During the discussion, President Akayev said he expected that the European countries would make their contribution to the republic's commemoration of the Kyrgyz heroic epic "Manas" slated for 1995.

National Guard Takes Oath of Allegiance

LD2007154992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek July 20 TASS—The first battalions of Kyrgyz National Guards on Monday [20 July] took an oath of allegiance to Kyrgyzstan in the presence of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev.

There are also servicemen of other nationalities in the battalions, including Russians, Ukrainians and Uzbek.

Each serviceman took the oath in his native language.

Tajikistan

Foreign Relations Ministry To Be Reorganized

LD2107102892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 21 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe July 21 TASS—Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev has signed a decree on the reorganisation of the Republican Ministry of Foreign Relations into a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The move was prompted by the need to expand foreign economic relations and diplomatic ties with foreign countries.

Further on Visit by Romania's Nastase

AU2007184592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1748 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Dushanbe (ROMPRES) 20/7/1992—As part of his tour of the Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase was Monday [20 July] in Dushanbe where he was received by Tajikistan's president Rakhman Nabiyev and Vice-Premier Dzhamshed Karimov. In the afternoon Foreign Minister Nastase and his Tajikistani counterpart Khudoyberdy Khaliknazarov signed an accord on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Romania and Tajikistan, and a protocol referring to the beginning of a political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries. The Romanian delegation tabled a draft consular agreement to be concluded between Bucharest and Dushanbe.

The two ministers agreed on growing bilateral economic, political and cultural ties.

Foreign Minister Nastase underlined the need to revise the accords previously signed between Romania and the former Soviet Union, all while keeping the clauses corresponding to the current sociopolitical situation in Romania and Tajikistan. Tuesday, Adrian Nastase will arrive in Ashkhabad, capital city of Turkmenistan, the fifth and last stage in his tour of independent republics in Central Asia.

Electric Plant Guarded Against Armed Attacks

LD1807201292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Nurek GES [hydroelectric power station] is the energy heart of Tajikistan supplying the whole of the southern Tajikistan territorial production complex with electricity. Its 300-meter dam retains thousands of millions of cubic meters of water contained in the Nurek Sea. Therefore the news about exchanges of fire by an armed grouping of unknown political orientation aroused legitimate concern not only among people in Tajikistan but also outside it. The possession of a large amount of weaponry by opposing groupings, which does not rule out the possibility of a terrorist act, has made the government adopt a decision on the armed guarding of

the most significant objects in the national economy and stores of explosive materials.

The Nurek GES is first in this line. All mountain passes have been put under guard, including Chermazak pass, which leads to Nurek. The 24-hour duty and examination of all road transport is being conducted here by permanent posts of Internal Ministry officers and troops from the CIS 201st motorized infantry division. Although no other attempts to burst through to the energy giant have been noted, vigilance and precautionary measures won't hurt.

Muslims Protest Over Uzbek TV Program

LD1907220192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0007 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A letter has been sent on behalf of the representatives of the Spiritual Board of Tajikistan, the (Imam Termizi) Islamic University, and the [words indistinct] society of Tajikistan to the president of Tajikistan and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The letter states: We the Muslims of Tajikistan, in this letter of protest to the program shown on Uzbek television on 14 July, express our view and position on [words indistinct]. This program was far from the truth and wrong and aroused our (?profound anger). We observed how a sovereign republic falsifies the truth and [words indistinct] in relation to another sovereign neighboring republic, turning the Muslim peoples of the two fraternal republics against one another. We the Muslims of the Republic of Tajikistan consider these wrong intentions as interference in our internal affairs and request that you bring our serious protest to their attention.

Immediate measures must be taken to prevent such (?conspiracies). We the Muslims, in line with the requests of the people of the republic, propose that the producers of this [word indistinct] program be made to answer for it, and that a special commission be formed for investigating those behind the production of this program. Those who were direct witnesses of recent events ought to speak and participate in the programs of Tajik television. A television news conference should be arranged with the participation of representatives from Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab, particularly those who witnessed the incidents with their own eyes.

Our main proposal is that the Uzbek television programs for Tajikistan be immediately stopped, because the Uzbeks have stopped showing Tajik television programs, and the Tajiks in Uzbekistan, whose numbers are considerably greater than [words indistinct] in our own republic, have been deprived of Tajik television programs. Uzbek television programs can only be shown to the people of Tajikistan when they show our programs.

[signed] Khaji Akbar Turadzhonzoda, Khabibullo [word indistinct], Sayed Abdullo-i Nuri, Nurriddin Kakhorov, and [words indistinct].

Turkmenistan

Government Bans Various Import, Export Items

OW1807184592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan has banned importing and exporting some products on its territory. The list approved by the President includes: weapons and ammunition, military hardware and materials and parts for their manufacture, explosives, nuclear materials, ionizing sources, machinery and equipment for producing armaments, narcotics and accessories for their use, psychotropic preparations, and pornographic audio, video or printed matter.

Export is also banned of: precious metals, alloys or articles made of them, gems and ornaments with them, works of art or any objects of artistic, historical, scientific, or cultural value.

Press Secretary Appointed, Service To Expand

OW2007193292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the next ten days, President Saparmurad Niyazov's newly appointed press secretary, Durdymukhammed Gurban, (his appointment was confirmed Monday [20 July]) is expected to present to the head of state a plan of reorganization of the presidential press service.

In the words of Durdymukhammed Gurban, he is "ultimately dissatisfied with the present-day operation of the press service" which consists of "merely" three persons. The new presidential press secretary is planning to include in his staff consultants in operative issues, analysts of the Asian, European, American and CIS press, a photo-correspondent, and a a clerk.

Durdymukhammed Gurban maintains that the reorganized press service will hold regular press conferences "on all the current developments" and pledges to facilitate the contacts with his press service of journalists accredited in Turkmenistan.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Durdymukhammed Gurban, 35, Turkmen, graduated with excellent results from the journalist faculty in 1980. A single "B" for "Political economy" Gurban attributes to an unsuccessful attempt to prove to his professor that socialist revolution in the U.S. could not happen. In various periods of his life he was an editor in a film studio, headed a department in the "Yash Kommunist" (Young Communist) daily paper editorial board, worked in the ministry of culture, edited the women's magazine "Ovadan" (Beautiful), and

the weekly "Edebiyat Ve Sungat" (Literature and Arts). Durdymukhammed Gurban is a member of the republic's Writers' Union, Thespian Union and Journalists' Union. He is the author of several books of poetry, plays, and the essays "Turkmen Bashi" (Head of Turkmens Discovers Roads) and "Vozhd" (Leader) dedicated to the Turkmen president both of which went out of print in 1992. Durdymukhammed Gurban is married and has three children: 12-year-old daughter, and two sons aged 10 years and 4 months. He spends his pastime playing with his children and working at his dacha. He likes to read the Koran, the Bible, and works by Plato and Nietzsche.

Uzbekistan

National Guard Forces Take Oath to Republic

LD2007191492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Report by correspondent Sh. Ganiyeva; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The national guardsmen are taking oath in Uzbekistan.

[Ganiyeva] The National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan amounts to around 1,000 guards today. Its military section includes an honor guard company, an independent special purpose detachment, and a motorized infantry regiment. Note that the combat readiness of these subunits is quite high. [passage omitted]

Council of Europe Officials Comment on Talks

LD2007220492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Some news from Tashkent. Leaders and experts of the Council of Europe have arrived there. We have just received a report from our correspondent, S. Ganiyeva:

[Ganiyeva] A news conference given by Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, and Turkey's Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, has just ended. They arrived in Tashkent this morning, and the news conference completes their familiarization tour around some independent states of the CIS. As Hikmet Cetin—who is also the chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Council of Europe—said in his speech, the purpose of their visit is to gather first-hand information about the sociopolitical situation and the processes occurring in the independent republics of the Commonwealth, and to assess the possibilities for cooperation between the Council of Europe and many countries.

To our question as to how they assess the situation in this Central Asian republic, Catherine Lalumiere said that this is the first time that they have established contacts with Uzbekistan, and that they are attracted by the stability and national harmony reigning in the republic where economic reforms prevail over political reforms.

Armenia

'Self-Defense Forces' Said To Liberate Aterk

NC2007153892 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Dear listeners, we now have a report on the latest developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Armenia's border rayons. [passage indistinct]

Despite the [words indistinct], the peace-loving people of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] are continuing their struggle for freedom. Reports we have received indicate that the Artsakh Armenians have no intention of relinquishing their (?stand). The Azerbaijan National Army has been using various types of weapons to fire intensively on the NKR's residential areas. Innocent people have been killed and wounded as a result of this criminal offensive. Towns in the NKR have been damaged. Armenian self-defense forces have counterattacked to ensure the people's security and liberate the occupied residential areas.

Armenian self-defense forces have inflicted serious blows on the aggressor over the past two days. They forced the enemy to withdraw from several strategically important heights and residential areas. The worst clashes were in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The self-defense forces liberated Aterk, [three place names indistinct] in Mardakertskiy Rayon yesterday and last night. [passage indistinct] According to the NKR NEWS AGENCY, the usurpationists left 100 dead behind when they retreated. Two enemy tanks and several armored vehicles and mortars were destroyed. Four Armenians were killed and 30 were wounded.

Clashes also took place in other rayons and towns in the NKR. These were mainly exchanges of fire between positions.

NKR officials are taking steps to resettle refugees and provide them with provisions and urgently needed commodities. Peaceful residents are being resettled in the liberated towns of Askeranskiy Rayon.

The situation along Armenia's border with Azerbaijan remains tense. Azerbaijan has fired on nearly all the residential areas close to the border. [passage indistinct] Armenian self-defense forces were forced to return the fire to silence the enemy positions. Tavushskiy and Megrinskiy Rayons have come under various types of fire.

To summarize, the Azerbaijani side is intentionally (?trying to undermine) the efforts being made to stabilize the situation.

EC To Allocate $52 Million for Grain Purchases

OW1807191592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Minister of Armenia Gagik Shakhbazyan reported that during his visit to Brussels the European Economic Community agreed to allocate 38 million ECU [European currency unit] (about 52 million dollars) to the republic for purchasing grain. This is a first international credit agreement of Armenia. 2 million are supposed to be spent for medicines and the other sum of money will be used for purchasing 400 thousand tons of food grain assuring Armenia with bread inn the course of the whole year. At present the Armenian experts are looking for firms selling grain but their list must be coordinated with the corresponding bodies of the European Economic Community.

Azerbaijan

Baku Radio Reports Armenian Recapture of Aterk

NC2107072792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

Enemy forces have been very active in the northern part of Yukhary Karabakh over the past few days. The Armenian expeditionary corps, employing a large number of men and military vehicles, unleashed a strong counterattack yesterday and last night along the entire battlefront in Agdere Rayon. Azerbaijan Armed Forces units are continuing to resist the occupationists and are trying to obstruct the counterattack. Violent clashes are currently taking place in several residential areas in Agdere Rayon. Regrettably, the Armenians have reoccupied Aterk, (Deylik), Zerdekhach, Kasapet, and (Medrin). Meanwhile, bloody clashes are taking place in the vicinity of [name indistinct], Umudlu, and Ashagy (Oratakh). The Armenians have regained control of the Sarsangsk Dam. Efforts are under way to determine the number of dead and wounded.

Shilli and Chukhurmakhla in Agdamskiy Rayon came under fire from Askeran last night. The situation in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons was relatively peaceful last night. Govshatly and Sur were shelled by artillery and tanks from the direction of Gadrut at 0800 today. Two of our fighters were wounded in the attack. The enemy fire was returned.

Azerbaijan Armed Forces units in Kel'badzharskiy Rayon have expelled the enemy from several towns in Lachinskiy Rayon and strengthened their positions in Pirdzhakan, (Magadin), Ardushlu, and [name indistinct], (Subyan) in Lachinskiy Rayon came under mortar fire from enemy positions in (Mabutly). Meanwhile, four

peaceful citizens who were taken hostage by the Armenians in Kedabekskiy Rayon four days ago have been released.

Several border towns in Zangelanskiy Rayon have come under fire from Armenia.

The current situation in Kazakhskiy, Tauzskiy, Kedabekskiy, and Kubatlinskiy Rayons is relatively peaceful.

'Aerial' Bombs Dropped on Stepanakert

LD2107083592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0741 GMT 21 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow July 21—Three military aircraft—SU-24, MiG-25 and L-29—bombed Stepanakert on Monday [21 July] evening. Nine aerial bombs were dropped on the city and its suburbs. After hitting the ground, they continued burning for a long time, spreading acrid smell. This was said in a report from the press centre of the parliament of Nagorno-Karabakh received over the telephone.

People of Stepanakert did not take measures to extinguish the fire and were not approaching the bombs, fearing chemical contamination. Experts are to establish the character of the bombs. Destruction was caused in the city, crops of wheat burned in the suburbs.

In the past day, the Azeri Army shelled and strafed with rockets Askeran and Martuni district centres and Chartar village. "Grad" installations were used for salvo fire. According to preliminary information, one person was killed, another wounded. Destruction was caused.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Meets Russian Envoy

LD1807045592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1529 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 17 July—"The establishment of diplomatic links between Azerbaijan and Russia will undoubtedly promote the development of relations between these states," Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Gambarov stated today, receiving Russian Ambassador Valter Shoniya.

In turn, the Russian ambassador emphasized that Azerbaijan and Russia will be able to "build on a new foundation the closest, most good-neighborly, friendliest relations, which our peoples have always maintained between them." And if certain difficulties appeared in these relations, "then these difficulties appeared because of the actions of politicians, while the people always nurtured the very best feelings toward one another," the diplomat added.

The ambassador passed on greetings to the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet chairman from Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and his wishes to improve the links between the parliaments of the two countries. After accepting with gratitude the greeting from his Russian colleague, Isa Gambarov noted that he also supports the development of interparliamentary contacts and stated that a proposal on this question is contained in a letter sent by him to the head of the Russian parliament.

Official Urges Continued CIS Observer Status

OW2007191192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the defence ministry's information department, Leila Yunusova, also a leading expert in defence matters, thinks Azerbaijan must retain its observer status at meetings by CIS defence and foreign ministers, and CIS heads of state summits. She said the parliament must define the status of the Azeri delegation in the observer capacity so as to take part in CIS forums, make proposals and respond accordingly to the processes taking place in the Commonwealth.

Yunusova said Azerbaijan attended the recent conference in Tashkent by CIS foreign and defence ministers, but did not sign any paper, including the agreement on a CIS peacekeeping force to be used in areas of conflict. She said the status of Russian forces in Azerbaijan, the protection of borders between the two republics, and the sharing out of army property were not on the agenda of the Tashkent conference. The Azeri official said these issues must be the subject of talks between Azerbaijan and Russia, and other CIS countries.

Foreign Minister on Peace Conference, Armenia

TA1907180392 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Hikmet Cetin, foreign minister and current president of the Council of Europe [COE], and COE Secretary General Catherine Lalumiere arrived in Turkey today concluding a visit to five CIS republics.

Cetin and Lalumiere stopped over in Baku as they were returning to Turkey from Tashkent, the Uzbek capital, for talks with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov at the airport.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, Gasymov said that, until a positive result is reached in preparatory talks on Karabakh being held in Rome, participation in the Minsk Peace Conference is meaningless.

Gasymov reiterated that Azerbaijan favors a peaceful solution to this problem within the framework of the CSCE.

Gasymov added that Azerbaijan and Armenia must recognize each other as independent states before beginning official talks.

Pointing out that his country wants to become a member of the Council of Europe, Gasymov said that their request has already been submitted to the Council.

Turkish Delegation Issues Statement on Ties

TA1807063792 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The Turkish delegation headed by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk has ended its contacts in Azerbaijan. A joint statement issued at the end of the contacts says that the delegations of the two countries discussed the development of bilateral relations in various fields and that within that framework they discussed political and economic relations as well as consular affairs and other issues.

The statement says that efforts will continue to develop bilateral relations.

The representatives from various ministries and establishments who comprised the Turkish delegation held contacts to further cooperation in their own fields.

New Crossing Point Opened on Turkish Border

LD1807014092 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2150 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By the AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nakhichevan (Azerbaijan Republic), 18 Jul—A new simplified crossing point has been opened on Nakhichevan's border with Turkey.

For local inhabitants to cross the border unhindered, they need only obtain permits with photographs, which will be inserted into their passports, from the law enforcement bodies. Citizens of Turkey need only show their passports. The time limit for their stay outside their countries has been set at one month for now.

Entrepreneurs of Nakhichevan and Turkey also may avail themselves of the simplified crossing services. The procedure for the transport of bartered goods has also been determined.

President Appoints New Communications Minister

NC1707184792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey has issued a decree appointing Firuz Gusayn Ogly Abbasbeyli minister of communications. Kakhraman-zade was relieved of his responsibilities as communications minister because he has been appointed to another post.

Georgia

Curfew Introduced in Tskhinvali on 19 Jul

LD2007153492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] As a result of the difficulty of ensuring law and order and curtailing illegal acts in Tskhinvali, a curfew was introduced on 19 July. Supervising compliance with the curfew has been entrusted to units of the peacekeeping forces and local law enforcement bodies.

Removal of Some Russian Volunteers Demanded

LD2007153792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Georgian State Council has demanded that some Russian volunteers who arrived in the conflict region in connection with the peace-making mission be withdrawn from Tskhinvali. A representative of a joint control commission told this to an RIA correspondent. The State Council's demand was prompted by the fact that the strength of the subunits has increased despite the latest agreement that it should not exceed 300 people each from Russia, Georgia, and North Ossetia. Sergey Shoygu, the chairman of the Russian State Committee on Emergencies, left for Tbilisi today to hold talks with members of the Georgian State Council.

Emergency Situation Declared in Tskhinvali

OW2107100892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0931 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] South Ossetia's Supreme Soviet announced yesterday, July 20, an emergency situation in its administrative centre Tskhinvali including a curfew from 23:00 to 6:00. Four commandant's posts have been installed in the city centre to observe it.

Meanwhile, as INTERFAX has been informed at the press-centre of Russia's Defence Ministry, the situation in South Ossetia is normalizing. Units of the 104th airborne regiment acting as part of the tripartite peacemaking force have cleared of mines three bridges in Tskhinval. They have also defused 49 anti-tank mines. "They have confiscated from the warring sides 3 armoured vehicles, 2 anti-hail guns, and a mortar with ammunition and dismantled 2 ALAZAN missile-launchers", reports the press-centre.

The press-centre of Georgia's Interior Ministry informs that four people were killed and three wounded last night

near the Georgian village of Nikozi near Tskhinval when some villagers riding out to the fields in a truck hit a mine. About the same time - as an official of the Gori district, Valaiko Doliashvili, has said in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] - small arms fire was opened on the Georgian villages of Eredvi and Vanadi. The international peace-making force deployed in the area did nothing, he said, to quash that fire. There were no casualties among the population.

Commission Formed To Aid South Ossetia

LD1807173392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0913 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi July 17 TASS—The Georgian State Council has formed a government commission for the restoration of the South Ossetia · economy and the return of refugees there, which was headed by Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua.

According to preliminary estimates, some five billion roubles of capital investments will be needed for restoring the economy of the region ruined by two years of the inter-ethnic conflict. Part of the money will be spent on the restoration of villages and dwellings abandoned by refugees. According to Chairman of the State Council Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgia will not be able to fulfil this task alone. It is counting on the assistance of other countries, primarily that of Russia.

S. Ossetia Leader Thanks Russian Leaders

LD1807175892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1351 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS—Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia Torez Kulumbegov has sent a telegram to Russian leaders expressing profound gratitude to Russia, on behalf of his people, for measures to end the bloody Ossetian-Georgian conflict. Russian mediation, which helped bring about the Dagomys agreement and deploy disengagement forces, brought to the much-suffering soil the first days of peace, the telegram says.

Kulumbegov Message to Residents of S. Ossetia

LD1907153892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The head of South Ossetia's Parliament, Torez Kulumbegov, has described as a historic mission the introduction into the Tskhinvali zone of a joint peacekeeping force of Russia, Georgia and Ossetia. In a 19 July message to residents of the Republic he underlines that peace has at last come to South Ossetia after three years of war. According to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, all fighting has ceased in the conflict zone since Tuesday [14 July] when the peace force was introduced. All motor roads operate between Tskhinvali and the capitals of Georgia and North Ossetia. Georgia's State Council has formed a government commission to restore the economy of South Ossetia and repatriate the refugees.

North Ossetian on Deciding South's Status

LD2007092892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The issue of South Ossetia's political status will have to be decided sooner or later but now is not the right time, believes Aksarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian parliament. In an interview for a RIA correspondent, Galazov said that Russia, Georgia, North and South Ossetia should (?for the moment) avoid political decisions of any kinds while in the conflict zone. The first days of introducing mixed peacekeeping forces have shown that the main objective of a ceasefire is attainable, noted Galazov. He gave the second most important task as the return of refugees to their places of residence, and the creation of the conditions needed for this.

Russian Forces Withdrawing Weapons, Equipment

OW1907151992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian forces deployed in Georgia are carrying out an emergency operation on the withdrawal of weapons and equipment from the republic, the Georgian defence ministry's press officials told IF [INTERFAX]. Russian military transport aircraft carry out up to 20 flights every day.

The press officials in Tbilisi said that until a few years ago, Georgia had more military air strips than any other republic in the region, but these are now empty because all the aircraft were transferred to Russia.

Georgia is the only former Soviet republic which did not receive its own share of Soviet Army property. Military district commanders had repeatedly said Georgia would not have its share of the weapons unless it signed an agreement with Russia.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Armenia

LD1707184692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan July 17 TASS—Armenia and Georgia established diplomatic relations at an ambassadorial level on Friday [17 July].

An agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations was signed in Yerevan by Georgian First Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Aleksandr Chikvaidze and his Armenian counterpart Raffi Hovannisian. They

also signed an agreement on cooperation between foreign ministries of the two countries.

Not Intending To Introduce Visas for Russians

LD2007111692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Although Georgia is not a member of the CIS and will not be taking part in the conference of the member countries' leaders of consulate services, which opens on 17 August in Minsk, it does not intend—like the Baltic states—to introduce visa regulations in its relations with Russia and the CIS countries. This was reported by the press service of the Georgian permanent mission in Moscow to an RIA correspondent. It is expected that in the future Georgia will be considering the question of visa-free visits with each of the CIS countries separately on a bilateral basis.

Police Officers Reinforce Western Areas

OW2007195292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Over 100 policemen were dispatched from Tbilisi to Western Georgia on 20th July, Interfax was told at the republic's MVD press centre. On Tuesday [21 July] a further 200 policemen will go there.

They are there to combat bandits who terrorise local inhabitants and rob trains. A Tbilisi-Moscow express train was halted and robbed on Sunday in Western Georgia.

Over 10 bn. [billion] Rubles have been lost on the railway. 70% of the stolen freight was bound for Armenia.

Ioseliani Advocates Annihilating 'Marauders'

LD2107024992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Jul 92

[From the "Vesti" program]

[Text] On 20 July, Jaba Ioseliani, deputy chairman of the Georgian state council, gave an interview to television correspondents a few hours after his return from Mingrelia. He announced that armed bands of marauders, without any political aims, are operating there. They are marauding and looting and must be mercilessly annihilated. Ioseliani said he will return to Mingrelia to continue his fight against these bands. He admitted that there are cases of incorrect behavior by Mkhedrioni fighters but said they are isolated cases, (DER-Press) reports.

Estonia

Vahi Criticizes Attacks on Russians

LD2007152892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Russo-Estonian talks resumed today. They will deal in particular with the status of Russian troops in the Baltic states and are likely to be difficult. Blatantly discriminatory acts by the Estonian authorities against the nonindigenous residents are capable of infuriating not only the irascible Russian military, but contemplative diplomats as well. I think our Tallinn correspondent Vladimir Velman has managed to summarize concisely a number of problems.

[Velman] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, back from a trip to France to join in the Bastille Day festivities and meet ministers, said today that reports about Estonia in, he stressed, the foreign press have been unpleasant. Armed incidents with Russian servicemen are not helping us to enter Europe, he said. Regarding his meeting with the French Economics Ministry to discuss possible credits for Estonia, Tiit Vahi commented that nobody is in any hurry to lend money to us. The Estonian procuracy has so far filed 22 complaints at the Tallinn city court in connection with illegal attempts by the former Soviet forces to rent or sell property of the Republic of Estonia. It has been several months now since the Estonian Supreme Soviet nationalized the assets of the former Soviet Army stationed in the republic. [passage omitted]

Further on Russian Supreme Soviet Resolution

OW2007211292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1755 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on national TV Sunday evening [19 July] Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis said that "Estonia is in danger".

Commenting on the change of Russia's policy toward the Baltics and the Russian parliament's decisions concerning Estonia, Landsbergis described the Russian policy as "tough" and "almost cold war-style".

On July 17 the Russian parliament passed a resolution "on human rights in Estonia", expressing concern over "violation of human rights in the republic".

The Lithuanian leader expressed fears that "the growing pressure on Estonia from the Russian side can prevent Estonia from holding elections to the National Assembly scheduled for September 20.

Hard Currency Reserves Higher Than Predicted

LD2007202292 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A month has passed since the monetary reform and we can be sure now that there is no danger to the rate of the Estonian kroon.

This statement was made by the Chairman of the Information Department of the Bank of Estonia, [name indistinct], today. He added that the monetary reform took place as expected. The resources of hard currency are even bigger than predicted.

Exchange rates of foreign currency to the ruble, affected by Lithuania's lit's set back on Monday [20 July], show the Estonian kroon has gained some percent rise in one ruble to nine from the previous [words indistinct] purchase price and from 11 to 12 rubles to the kroon in the (?same price). [Word indistinct] exchange rate of the German mark to the ruble at the same bank [words indistinct] has risen from 8.25 to 9.55 kroons, up from last week but lower than the official rate of eight to [words indistinct] to the German mark, as set by the Bank of Estonia. [Word indistinct] bank is the only foreign bank now, so far, to quote the Estonian kroon.

Government To Control Defense Forces

OW2007211392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1755 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the decision of the Council of State Defense of the Estonian Republic, the operative control over the republic's defense forces has been vested with the government, said Estonia's prime-minister and member of the republic's Defense Council Tiit Vahi speaking at a press conference in Tallinn this Monday [20 July].

According to the Constitution of the Estonian Republic, during peace time, control over the defense forces and other state defense agencies will be effected by the commander-in-chief of the defense forces appointed the republic's State Council on the president's proposal. The elections to the State Assembly together with the presidential election will be held on September 20.

In the words of Mr Vahi, the defense forces control issues were addressed at the recent closed-door session of the government. The session resolved to exclude the armed forces from the pre-election campaign. The participants of the session also stressed the need for strengthening discipline in the national armed forces.

Ruutel Departs for 21-26 July Visit to Spain

OW2007211592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1755 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel left for Spain Monday [20 July], the parliamentary press service reports.

On July 21 Ruutel will visit the World EXPO-92 exhibition in Sevilla and on July 22 will attend the opening ceremony at the Estonian pavillion.

On July 24 Ruutel will give a reception for members of the Estonian team to the Olympics in Barcelona, and on July 25 will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics.

Ruutel will return to Estonia July 26.

Latvia

Rublis Introduced; Dollar Exchange Rate Increases

LD2007153192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 20 Jul 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow July 20 TASS—The introduction of the Latvian national currency—the rublis—led to the rise of the dollar at the Latvian market, which in the near future might affect rates of exchange at the Russian currency market.

Experts of Latvian independent "Pareks" company which deals with currency transactions, told BUSINESS-TASS on Monday [20 July] that the dollar exchange rate rose by approximately 10 roubles at the Latvian currency exchange. At present, the dollar is purchased for 140 roubles and is sold for 160 roubles.

According to the "Pareks" company, one Latvian rublis is exchanged at the market at a rate of 0.9 roubles, while the official rate of exchange is 1:1.

According to estimates by the Noscow Interbanking Currency Exchange, the monetary reform in Latvia will exert pressure on the Moscow currency exchange, which might lead to the growing demand for the dollar, which can be subsequently resold in Latvia at a higher rate of exchange.

At the same time, the "Pareks" experts believe the pressure will not be significant due to a comparatively small size of the Latvian currency market.

Some Traders Continue To Accept Russian Rubles

LD2107082292 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Although beginning today state and commercial shops are settling accounts only in Latvian rublis, at the Riga Central Market, as a LETA correspondent found out, food and other goods can still be bought with Russian money from the southern republics' and Central Asian representatives as well as from neighboring Lithuanians and from local traders. However, the Estonians who were selling tomatoes and cucumbers requested that their products be paid in Latvian rublis. We will exchange them for German marks and dollars, they explained. Others said they carry out activities with Russia and other states of the ruble zone, and that it was more convenient to settle, for the time being, in Russian rubles.

Russian Army To Pay Hard Currency for Land Use

LD2007215292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Latvia is preparing a draft law on changes in rental payment for the land used by the Russian Army and on restricting the commercial operations of military units, the Latvian defense minister stated on 17 July. According to the draft law, the Russian side will have to pay for the use of land in hard currency. The defense minister thinks that this will force the army to give up a considerable part of its land which in fact is unused. All agreements on leasing, selling, or purchasing premises which the army has signed with various commercial structures will be declared null and void, NEGA reports.

NATO Experts Visit, Praise Defense Concept

LD2007191892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2000 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] As a practical implementation of the assistance promised by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner to Talavs Jundzis, [word indistinct] defense minister of the Latvian Republic, 10 NATO experts from five countries worked in Latvia for three days. At a news conference, one of them, American Paul Kruger, spoke positively of the draft of the defense concept of Latvia, which has been drafted with consideration of the experience of Scandinavian countries. The concept is founded on the involvement of the the country's people as a whole in the defense of the country in critical situations. This is characteristic of countries with limited human and material resources. The guests have an especially high opinion of our state system of civil defense, having noted that NATO experts can learn something as well in the [word indistint] center.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Comments on Government's Dismissal

LD2007231692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Studio address by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Good day, esteemed listeners. These days the whole of Lithuania has been agitated by a ripening separation of ways by the new majority at the Supreme Council and the government or, one may say, the prime

minister, and by the efforts of this new majority to remove Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and at the same time change or reorganize the present government.

In the last few days the work of the Supreme Council has been marked, unfortunately, by tiredness and anger. Despite this, the aim of the new majority was achieved; the government has been removed. At present it temporarily continues its duties. After the vote of no confidence in the prime minister was expressed, by four or five votes, the prime minister resigned and the government returned its authorizations in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

Many deputies did not dispute that we have a Constitution, but it was strange to recall how, in mid-May, some of them were stubbornly claiming that we did not have a Constitution and therefore a law on the president could not be adopted by a referendum. Now everything has been done in accordance with the Constitution, or the provisional basic law, although there were many unconstitutional efforts: proposals for force to adopt a decision on the resignation of one member of the government [words indistinct] even limiting the constitutional right of the Supreme Council chairman and his duty to propose a new prime minister. It seemed at one time that the Supreme Council could simply disclaim itself as a legislative representative in behaving not according to the law.

Luckily, a legal solution has been adopted, and today I have to think and consult over what candidature to propose next week. But anger and passions in parliament over power suppress a single and simple duty: To express gratitude to the Gediminas Vagnorius government for its work and leadership in especially difficult times, in conditions of various outside attacks, internal difficulties, and restrictions created by the Supreme Council itself. This government has been working since 13 January last year. Those days are not only historical, they remain in our memory.

And there are matters which are newly discovered by us. For instance, documents were made public yesterday, notes by the former Soviet defense minister, Marshal Yazov, or a recording of a recent meeting in Vilnius, possibly in the northern cantonment, attended by a high-ranking political instructor sent from Moscow to tell local enemies of the state and traitors how they could best serve the Soviets.

This is what was noted by Marshal Yazov: This is 8 January, Lithuania, about 100,000 people at the Supreme Council building. They are all against the increase of prices. And here, Mykolas Martinovicius, it seems—this is 9 January—who says: Everything will be ready by 1700, Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, etc. At 1600 a crowded meeting. We remember that meeting in Independence Square and we knew what it could mean. People gathered around the Supreme Coucil to defend their government and their independence. And from that meeting in Yazov's office emerge such matters: Not Burokevicius, but Sakalauskas; Burokevicius will help. And the expense is planned: Funeral—25,000 each from the Ministry of Defense [words indistinct].

What the Moscow instructor was explaining—their plans—were really known to us. But this is verbatim about the division of the republics: It is essential to form parallel republics, understudy republics, to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to separate the Vilnius and Klaipeda regions, and create associations of these republics. Let them slowly cut their throats in Karabakh so that the nonhealing wound continues bleeding. It is essential to tear away the whole Vilnius region, like in 1939, the whole Vilnius and Klaipeda regions, and proclaim there the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, and for you or somebody else to become president of this republic, and then ask the Army to defend sovereign interests.

No one knows which traitor was proposed to be a president, but the mechanism, the scenario was the same.

Such were the times when the government led by Gediminas Vagnorius started work. This was followed by the Special Purpose Militia Detachment terror, the same threats and attempts to divide and tear Lithuania apart. There were murders, they expected internal division of Lithuania's society. All this failed, but all this had to be overcome. Of course, it was esential to carry out economic and other work of leadership. An extensive basic reform of the whole life of the state was started.

It must be continued now. It is essential to go to the elections, which are unavoidable. A newly elected Lithuanian seimas will form, let us hope, a more stable and a stronger government enjoying the support of parliament. Now we must hope that those factions and those deputies who have many times stated that they were concerned only about changing the prime minister and supporting another candidate, will really support him and will not hinder but help the government.

These remaining months before the elections will be very [indistinct word]. The government continues working and will work. The prime minister has dispatched many letters to foreign states, the EC, international banks concernig the drought in Lithuania, concerning help. The next prime minister will have to deal with this too. [Words indistinct] only accord and support are essential in this complex period of time. Parliament will have a rest. Maybe there will no longer be such anger. Maybe a new page in our political life has been opened. A deputy slapped the face of another. What is this—extremism or the norm, the norm of our political life? And it was proposed on the same day to accept it as the norm. Anyway, the Mandate and Ethics Commission did not react. One may say that it is to blame for such matters, that it does not react to nasty and indecent behavior. [passage omitted]

Somebody may say that those four or five deputies whose votes exceeded the limit of 65, and thanks to

whom the prime minister was removed, hardly have a very strong mandate. Some of them could have been rejected by the electors, some of them could act like Prof. Minkevicius [words indistinct].

But from the formal and legal point of view everything was as it should be, and it is important for us to observe the law introducing order in the government, maybe by reorganizing it, maybe by leaving the present structure. This [words indistinct] to a great extent a new prime minister. I am thinking about it, and from several candidatures I will soon have only one name.

Comments on Need for New Government

LD2007125292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] A meeting took place today between Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and the Supreme Council faction chairmen and authorized representatives. The Supreme Council chairman noted that he will propose Minister Without Portfolio Aleksandras Abisala for the prime minister's post at the plenary session to be held tomorrow.

The situation currently is such that we must have a new approved prime minister and government as soon as possible, and we must continue work. The fact itself that we have such a situation with three months remaining before the elections is not good for Lithuania, either economically or politically, remarked Vytautas Landsbergis.

New Prime Minister Nominated

OW2007131492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1247 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Minister without portfolio Aleksandras Abisala [name as received] is to be nominated as Lithuania's prime minister on Tuesday, said Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, in a televised interview Sunday evening.

37-year-old Candidate of Physics and Mathematics, A. Abisala was coordinator of the governmental commission for talks with the Soviet Union and subsequently with Russia. Now he leads the group of experts on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania.

In the outgoing government of Gediminas Vagnorius A. Abisala monitored relations, including talks, with Russia and issues connected with informatics. Several months ago G. Vagnorius nominated him for the post of Minister of Communications and Informatics, but the parliament failed to support this nomination.

One of the founders of the movement "Sajudis", A. Abisala belongs to the radical right-wing forces which back the policy of V. Landsbergis. However, because of the recent shift in the line-up of political forces, his grouping lost parliamentary majority.

On Monday the nomination of Lithuania's new prime minister, the fourth since the restoration of independence, will be discussed by representatives of parliamentary factions. On Tuesday this issue will be submitted to a plenary session of the parliament.

With reference to the government of G. Vagnorius V. Landsbergis said: "We are saying good-bye to the government of January 13". According to the Lithuanian leader, the government of G. Vagnorius followed the policy of economic and political independence for Lithuania; it was a government of reforms which went on with difficulty, with tension, with doubts and with hopes".

Background of Gediminas Vagnorius Resignation

PM2007113192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Jul 92 p 1

["Own Information" report under "Situation" rubric: "Lithuania: Premier Accused of Corruption"]

[Text] On 14 July, at the last session of the Lithuanian Republic parliament before the vacation recess, parliament expressed no confidence in Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius by a majority of votes. Sources close to the Lithuanian leadership claimed that the reason for the resignation was not the premier's political untenability but a number of abuses by him, specifically the investment of government funds in the Lithuanian-British "Geopakt" project with the aim of personal enrichment. The essence of the project is the "privatization" of oilfields in northern Lithuania. The initiators of the setting up of the "Geopakt" project were the former leaders of Lithuanian geological organizations and the Klajpeda District administration. The man behind the project is K. Astravas, a Canadian of Lithuanian extraction.

The Vagnorius government gave diverse assistance to the project to "privatize" Lithuanian oil. The circumstances of this assistance are emerging now that the ball has been set rolling by Vice Premier Zigmas Vaisvila, who criticized the government's actions. In response, Vagnorius expressed no confidence in his deputy. It must be recognized that it will not be that easy to "bring down" Vaisvila: A tough and decisive man who was responsible in Sajudis for the republic's protection and security, he was appointed to the post of vice premier at the height of the events of mid-January 1991, when a firm grasp of the situation was required. It was Vaisvila who played a key role in organizing the defense of the parliament building and coordinating the activities of territorial protection and the Interior Ministry. It seems that Vagnorius has vainly engaged in competition with a man who is capable of getting any information he needs.

Further on Resignation

OW1807212492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1527 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday [17 July] the acting Prime Minister of Lithuania Gediminas Vagnorious took a holiday. The Vice Premier Algis Dobravolskas is charged with the responsibilities of the head of the government.

This week the Lithuanian parliament expressed its non-confidence in Vagnorious.

Friday Vagnorious had a meeting with the members of government and the staff of the apparatus in the House of Lithuanian government. He thanked everybody for honest work in implementation of social and economic reforms.

The chairman of "Sayudis" Juazas Tumelis who attended the meeting declared that "replacement of the government before the elections due to be in three months will bring no good to Lithuania". The leader of "Sayudis" noted that "our main task at this moment is to win at the elections". They are expected to be held on October 25.

Worker's Union Backs Vagnorius

LD2007230392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] We demand that authorized powers be left for Gediminas Vagnorius and the Government, headed by him, (?that had been established since the election) and the right to change sabotaging ministers, notes the statement adopted at the Coordinating Council of the Lithuanian Workers' Union Meeting, held on 18 July.

Representatives of Rightist Democratic Forces participated at the meeting. They discussed the political and economic situation in Lithuania. It was noted that the Left Side Deputies of the Supreme Council are deliberately ruining Lithuania's democracy and freedom and carry out illegal unlawful privatization.

Based on the Workers' Union and Kaunas Sajudis initiative, a protest meeting has been called, to be held outside the Supreme Council Building, on 21 July at 0900 against the destructive action of the leftist forces.

Accounting Procedures Talks With Russia Noted

OW1807000692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1750 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian delegation headed by the republic's deputy minister for economics, Mr Vytas Navickas, is coming to Moscow this Friday [17 July] to address the issues of mutual accounting procedures between Russia and Lithuania.

In an interview to a BALTFAX corespondent, Mr Navickas revealed that the Lithuanian side has prepared drafts of three documents: re redemption of Russia's debts to Lithuania; temporary accounting procedures since July 1 (when the Central Bank froze all the Lithuanian correspondent accounts); draft agreement between the banks of Russia and Lithuania on payments and mutual accounting after Lithuania introduces its own legal tender - the Lit.

In the words of the head of the Lithuanian delegation, the sides may have major disagreements on the issues of mutual accounting, whether the rubles or the Lits. Russia is insisting on setting up a centralized accounting system when all the financial operations will be effected through the mediation of Russia's Central Bank. Lithuania, on the other hand, shows preference to a centralized system of accounting which would enable the commercial banks and enterprises to keep their own accounts.

Council Discusses Granting Credit to Russia

LD1807100692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted including indistinct portion] The Sajudis Coalition statement regarding a lack of confidence in the Bank of Lithuania administration was also read. Following this came a draft decree on preparations to introduce granting credit to Russia. It was resolved to authorize the Bank of Lithuania to issue a 12 billion ruble [R] credit emission, and to prepare from this sum R3 billion to settle accounting with suppliers of agricultural products.

The Government tasked the Bank of Lithuania with entering into consultations and to sign agreements with states within the ruble zone concerning debt repayment and inter-bank accounting.

The Government was tasked to present, by 15 July of the current year, a program of market stabilization through the introduction of its own currency. The resolution regarding interpelation of the prime minister of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted by a secret vote. Sixty nine deputies voted in favor and six voted against. [passage omitted]

Deputy Supreme Council Chairman Ceslovas Stankevicius made a statement in which he pointed out that a draft proposal prepared by Deputy Aleksandras Ambrazevicius regarding the prime minister's resignation had been disseminated among the deputies in violation of the law. The draft proposed the appointment of a new government leader.

The deputy chairman of the Supreme Council stressed that the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and government laws are violated by this, and therefore it must be protested against. [Passage omitted] A statement by Vilius Baldisis, chairman of the Bank of Lithuania Administration, was also heard in which he expressed

disagreement with accusations directed against him by deputies and also in the course of discussion.

Following this, disregarding regulation order, Deputy Vytenis Andriukaitis presented a draft proposal concerning the prime minister's resignation, in which a proposal is set forth to authorize the Government to continue its duties while the duties of the prime minister should be turned over to a member of the Government Leonas Asmantas [Minister of Energy].

Gediminas Vagnorius, who arrived toward the end of the meeting, stated that the Government will return its authorizations.

The next plenary session will take place tomorrow.

Government Adopts Regulations on Border

LD1907163592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Lithuanian government has adopted a resolution on passing the Lithuanian state border. Citizens of Iceland, Latvia, Estonia, and Great Britain are not required to have entry visas to Lithuania. Until a seperate decision is made, citizens of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Hungary are allowed to come to Lithuania freely, as these countries do not require entry visas from Lithuanian citizens. The resolution does not say anything about citizens from CIS countries. So far they are allowed to enter Lithuania without an entry visa, as Lithuania is not technically ready for them.

Government Defines 1992 State Budget

LD1907180992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] This year's state budget was defined more precisely at today's meeting of the Lithuanian Government chaired by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. The prime minister said that it is destined to satisfy minimum requirements.

Finance Minister Elvyra Kuneviciene announced that the revenue of the national budget will increase by about 21.5 billion rubles. An increased general excise duty and individual excise duties after increasing the prices of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and oil products will constitute this increase. Payments into the budget will be made more difficult by disorderly mutual settlements among Lithuanan enterprises, and unpaid debts by Russia and other CIS states. When this problem is solved, the turnover of goods will increase. It is expected that about 7 to 8 billion rubles will be paid into the budget.

The government today examined the transfer of commercial functions from the Bank of Lithuania to other banks. This resolution will be made more precise. The order of printing and issuing special printed matters such as banknotes, securities, and passports was discussed. A government commission for extreme situations, accidents, catastrophes, and natural calamities was formed.

Situation in Power Engineering System Noted

LD1807115192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1345 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpts] A news conference at the Ministry of Power Engineering today was attended by Minister Leonas Asmantas, Jurgis Ilikevicius, general director of Lithuanian Fuel [Lietuvos Kuras], and other senior experts of power engineering.

Minister Leonas Asmantas stated that the situation in the power engineering system is sad. We do not get money for the supplied oil products and eletricity. We cannot settle accounts with the Mazeikiai oil refinery, and the latter cannot purchase oil because it has to pay for it in advance. Conditions are being dictated by Russia.

The consumers are in debt to the power engineering system to the tune of 3.7 billion roubles, to Lithuanian Gas by one billion, and to Lietuvos Kuras by 2.4 billion rubles.

In order to have a corresponding fuel reserve, 2 billion rubles are required, and only 234 million have been allocated, said the minister. [passage omitted]

It is already obvious that from 1 August we will have to pay world prices for oil, said the minister. The July agreed price of 7,500 rubles would constitute 65 percent of the world price. [passage omitted]

Lietuvos Kuras' General Director Jurgus ILikevicius said that in July fuel for the stoves will be sold to the residents at 800 rubles per tonne. Subsidies have not been planned for Lietuvos Kuras because the true price for this fuel should be 12,000 rubles, but so far this issue has not been solved. [passage omitted]

Problems Noted in Energy Production, Costs

LD1907153192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Today we'll start with a feature about the situation in the electricity generating situation [as heard] here in Lithuania.

Payment for heating and electricity will likely grow in autumn as so far consumers have been paying only a small percentage of the sum they should pay for using energetic resources. This has been stated by the Energy Ministry at the press conference attended by Minister Leonas Asmantas, Director General of Lietuvos Kuras—Lithuanian Fuel - Jurgis [?Ilikevicius] and other specialists in energetics.

According to the minister, Leonas Asmantas, specialists in energetics find themselves in a very difficult situation due to the growth of prices of organic fuel. Lithuania is dependent on Russia as it buys organic fuel it needs from

Russia. In the minister's opinion it would be wise to charge consumers more in order not to be tied to the prices dictated by Russia and later, after a certain fund has been accumulated, use it when any misunderstandings with the supplier arise. So far that has not been done. In recent negotiations with Russia it was settled that starting from 1 August Lithuania will pay for crude oil [words indistinct] by world market prices, though still in rubles, while till now the cost of one tonne of crude oil made up two thirds of the world market price.

The situation becomes still more complicated as no money has been received for produced oil products and electricity. Therefore accounts cannot be squared with the Mazeikiai oil refinery. The Mazeikiai oil refinery in its turn isn't able to buy new oil products as Russia requires to pay for them in advance. Currently Lithuania's consumers are 3.7 billion rubles in debt.

Privileges with which some consumers of energy are granted also bring a lot of complications. According to the energy minister, both individual consumers and industrial enterprises should be equally charged for using energy. Meanwhile difference in cost for the energy use by individual consumers [?doesn't have to be] paid by industrial enterprises. As [?Tomas Kutas], advisor to energy minister, pointed out, Lithuania sells its energy resources for a very low price and the consumers don't yet [words indistinct]. Thus the demand of the electric energy in the first half of the year has (?fallen down) only in industrial sphere but not in the household.

On the whole now Lithuania is being guarded by inverse law. Energy use in household is much cheaper than industrial energy. On the other hand when costs for products of energetics are approaching the world market prices less and less of these products are being sold. As Director General of Lietuvos Kuras, (?Jurgis Ilikevicius) pointed out, the commodity of oil products has fallen down by 40 percent due to the prices and general economic situation in Lithuania. [?Because of tax] the enterprise Lietuvos Kuras hasn't enough money on its account to buy oil products and during the first half of the year it failed to conclude 72 bargains.

So, what aspects should be considered to be of the highest priority in Lithuania's energetics?

According to the energy minister, one person should be responsible for giving permission to take fuel out of Lithuania. Although it is very difficult to sell fuel by such high prices, nevertheless it is possible to find buyers. Besides we still lack flexibility in providing ourselves with fuel. A hard currency fund should be founded. Lithuanian specialists in energetics are of the opinion that it would be possible to sell additional fuel reserves by reducing currency tax and then accumulated hard currency would enable them to make contracts with Russia as bringing back oil to Lithuania in winter time when it is mostly needed.

Effects of Drought on Currency Predicted

OW1907145292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1406 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy leader of the Bank of Lithuania Edmundas Zukauskas believes that the drought will not directly affect the introduction of Lithuania's own monetary unit, lit. "We must introduce the lit, even if we don't have its entire reserve fund", he said.

According to estimates, more than 500 million U.S. dollars are needed to cover the losses inflicted by the drought in Lithuania. On the other hand, financial experts assert that a reserve fund of the same size must be established to ensure stability for the lit.

Finance Minister Elvyra Kuneviciene doesn't think that the drought will have an impact on the time when the lit begins to circulate. Nevertheless she concedes that the lit won't become a strong monetary unit as soon as it gets introduced.

According to Lithuania's Agriculture Minister Rimvydas Survila, the enormous losses in farming will undoubtedly weaken the economy which will affect the monetary system too.

Vytenis Aleskaitis, Minister of External Economic Relations, links the impact of the drought on the lit primarily with subsidies. According to him, it will be hard for Lithuania to get Western aid in the introduction of its own money, if it continues to increase subsidies, from those for power engineering to social security.

Radio Station Founders Said To Be KGB Agents

LD1807175192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 16 Jul 92

[From the "Weekly Digest" program]

[Text] For several weeks now "RESPUBLIKA" has been launching an attack against the British-Lithuanian commercial radio station which will broadcast programs in English to the Scandinavian countries. The radio station is called Baltic Radio International.

The scandal broke out because Baltic Radio International has leased a 54 hectare plot of land on the Baltic seaside for the construction of a transmitter. The land plot was leased with the permission of Gediminas Vagnorius and without a public auction held for all those wishing to participate.

However, Mr. Vagnorius now denies being involved in the leasing procedure in any way.

Meanwhile "RESPUBLIKA", accused the founders of Radio Baltic International of being KGB agents, continues to publish various documents, thus increasing the public suspicion that something is very fishy in this whole affair.